

HOME NEWS

Mr Benn says his role in North Sea oil negotiations is identical with Mr Varley's

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Benn, the new Secretary of State for Energy, denied yesterday that the government reshuffle meant any change in ministerial responsibilities concerning the negotiations with oil companies on majority state participation in North Sea oil licences.

He told the Commons standing committee considering the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill that the status quo would be maintained in the participation negotiations. A committee under his chairmanship would watch the progress of the negotiations in exactly the same way as under his predecessor, Mr Varley.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Opposition spokesman on energy, had asked Mr Benn how he saw his role in his new office. Members had been surprised, he said, to read in newspaper reports of the reshuffle that Mr Benn had been "warned off" by the energy secretary, Mr Varley, and having direct

contact with the oil companies. It had been made clear when the negotiations were announced that Mr Varley would have overall supervision. Where did Mr Benn stand? If he was to have no part in the negotiations, how could he report their progress?

Mr Jenkin said North Sea oil was crucial to Britain's economic survival. Any minister who knowingly or needlessly squandered the confidence of the industry would carry a heavy burden. He added that it would be his intention to help Mr Benn to avoid any such fate.

Mr Benn said he recognized the importance of North Sea oil. The arrangements for the participation negotiations were unchanged. Three ministers would be involved in them: Lord Balogh, the minister of State for Energy, Mr Dell, Paymaster General, and Mr Dwyer, Chancellor of the Duchy. They would attend a committee under his chairmanship that was watching the negotiations. There was also a Cabinet committee, of which he had been a member for 15 months, to which the committee reported. There was also the Cabinet itself.

There is a great hierarchy of ministerial involvement here," Mr Benn said. "That is right, given the magnitude of the issues being considered. I hope the committee can feel reassured that the link between the present minister and the past minister, and these negotiations is on an identical basis."

He would make a statement on the cost of participation as soon as possible. Earlier, there was laughter when Mr Benn said: "I must apologise for the disappearance of my predecessor and maybe apologise for my own appearance. Whether it is right to describe this as an act of God or not is a matter for argument. Any rate, it was not an act of mine."

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Mr Gilbert becomes Minister for Transport

By Our Political Editor

The post of Minister for Transport was accepted yesterday by Mr John Gilbert, Financial Secretary at the Treasury. He was at least the third candidate for it; probably the fourth.

Mr Gilbert, aged 48, is the member for Dudley, East. He succeeds Mr Mulley, the new Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Five other ministerial appointments announced from 10 Downing Street were much as predicted: Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Mr Edward Auld, (35), formerly Under-Secretary, Welsh Office.

Under-Secretary, Department of Industry: Mr Gerald Kaufman (44), formerly Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment.

Under-Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security: Mr Michael Maud (38), formerly Under-Secretary, Department of Education and Science.

Mr du Cann admits anti-EEC speech might be regrettable

By Penny Symon

Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative Party, admitted yesterday that his anti-EEC speech two days before the referendum was "regrettable".

In the speech, made in his constituency of Taunton, Mr du Cann said that as many Conservatives were against Community membership as were in favour.

The eleven-hour intervention angered and embarrassed colleagues and offended some members of Mrs Thatcher's closest circle.

Yesterday, before about 180 MPs, he said that his view about the United Kingdom's signature of the Treaty of Rome was "consistent and undisputed".

It was held, with no less passion and with no less sincerity. But, with the advantage of hindsight, the speech was perhaps to be regretted. The difficulty was that it had been interpreted as coming from him in his capacity as chairman of the committee rather than as an individual MP simply expressing his view.

If it had been thought to carry the weight of the committee behind it, that was to be regretted. Of course, MPs should always be free to speak their minds, but there was a need for caution.

The tone of Mr du Cann's statement was that of a man who wished to make it very clear that he was simply expressing his personal point of view, and was not speaking in an official capacity.

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Britain may earn £60m from export of education

By Frances Gibb of The Times Higher Education Supplement

As much as £60m may be repaid by Britain over the five years from projects in other countries as a result of the new Paid Educational Services (PES) scheme by the British Council.

Under PES, British universities, polytechnics and colleges will help developing countries mount education and training programmes as part of a package deal, which includes contracts with British firms for design, construction, equipment. About 20 per cent of the cost of the programme will be repaid by the British Council.

The full implications of the scheme are being examined by a level committee set up by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

One project planned in Iran will train 500 technicians, 1,000 craftsmen and instructors a year over the five years.

The British Council has also been asked to help with higher education services. Lack of funds: British universities may be forced by a lack of funds to undertake research in the oil-producing countries of the Middle East.

Mr Derman, the British Council's director of education, said that the scheme would be a "win-win" situation for both sides.

Students pay £2,000 a year or the economic cost of a university place. Sir Brian F. Rector of Imperial College, London, suggested yesterday that the scheme would be a "win-win" situation for both sides.

The move would modernize the system of university education and arouse opposition from students. Britain and other countries would be able to cut out powers and usefulness.

University Grants Committee. Sir Brian suggested students could be subsidised local authorities.

Labour 'antis' join rush for Strasbourg

By Our Political Editor

How the Parliamentary Labour Party will choose its 18 members of the European Parliament for the session starting on July 7 in Strasbourg will be settled at a party meeting next Wednesday.

Controversy rages within the PLP on whether the delegation should be nominated by party managers or elected by the parliamentary rank and file.

When the PLP met last night the party managers reported through Mr Clwyd Hughes, PLP chairman, that they would propose that the delegation should consist of 14 Labour MPs and four Labour peers.

Mr Hughes described the recommended method as "selective nomination".

That meant that all members of the PLP could apply to be in the delegation, and then the PLP chairman and Mr Mellish, the Government Chief Whip,

would make their pick to get the right balance. The final list would be referred to the liaison committee, made up of senior ministers and backbench representatives, for confirmation.

Three amendments have already been tabled. Mr William Hamilton, an ardent EEC supporter, and Mr Bob Cryer, a more ardent opponent, want the PLP to ballot for membership of the delegation.

Mr Geoffrey de Freitas, a leader of Labour's pro-EEC people, has another suggestion, that half the delegation should be elected and the other half nominated.

One thing is sure, as Mr Hughes made clear after last night's meeting. There is no doubt of Labour backbenchers, in the aftermath of the referendum "Yes", who want to serve in the European Parliament. Those for and against the EEC are vying for nomination.

Mr Leslie Hunkeler, Labour MP for Nuneaton and a member of the Tribune group, said he felt strongly that the party's prime need now was to avoid personal attacks and the development of warring factions.

Although members of the group felt strongly about the way policy was developing, little could be gained by hasty over-reaction or personal attacks on the leadership.

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EEC move could cut growing under glass

By Our Political Editor

The plight of British glasshouse growers will be investigated when Mr Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, appears before the Commons Select Committee dealing with European secondary legislation next Tuesday.

His evidence will be given in public. He will be challenged to explain his department's attitude towards an EEC document for the rationalization of horticultural production under glass.

It is estimated at Westminster that about a tenth of the United Kingdom's total heated acreage would be lost under the EEC instrument.

The instrument would authorize the payment of grants towards the cost of demolishing heated commercial glasshouses and also prohibit the granting of aid for new glasshouses until after the end of 1976, if it is approved by the Council of Ministers.

Mummy in test may have been a princess

By Our Political Editor

The 2,000-year-old Egyptian mummy being unwrapped at Manchester University has been found to have gold on the nipples and fingernails, which reveals that she was of higher birth than at first thought, it was disclosed yesterday.

Dr Rosalie David, director of the project, said that they could not exclude the possibility that the 14-year-old girl was the daughter of a pharaoh.

The embalming may have been delayed to protect the body from embalmers, who are believed to have practised necrophily, Dr David said.

More army dossiers on IRA suspects 'missing'

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

Controversy is growing over the army's control of its extensive secret intelligence files on political suspects of the IRA after allegations that a second series of potentially damaging restricted documents is missing.

The allegation was made in the *Irish Independent*, a Dublin newspaper, after the documents had been found on a rubbish tip at Bessbrook, near the border town of Newry. They have now been officially requested from the paper's editor by the army authorities so that an investigation can be opened.

Already this week the Government has been embarrassed by an earlier claim in the *Sunday Times* that compromising army dossiers containing detailed information about IRA suspects had been handed to Protestant extremists by British soldiers.

The latest batch of documents contains photographs, addresses and other details of two men, one of whom was murdered last year by a gang of assassins, and the other is believed to be on the run in the Irish Republic. From a photograph printed in the paper, army officers agree that the documents appear to be genuine, but refused to comment officially until their authenticity has been proved.

Clearly marked in two places "restricted", one file contains a photograph of Mr Paul Finnan, a barman, machine-gunned to death on his mother's doorstep last year. Underneath is the inscription: "Not to be arrested unless suspected of or just seen committing a crime."

A full-scale army and police investigation into the alleged leak of secret dossiers to the Protestant paramilitary group

was already under way. It is understood that under government instructions that has been stepped up after the latest discovery of missing intelligence files. There are fears of a second series of potentially damaging documents have gone astray.

Although acknowledging the seriousness of the implications, government officials are refusing to comment on the progress of the investigation. It is at two levels, intended to establish first that the documents are genuine and second where the lapse in security occurred.

The most popular theory is that both sets of documents are authentic and that through an error they slipped through the normal shredding procedure used for destroying all unwanted secret material.

Although some of the documents date back as far as 1972, others are more up to date. The disclosure that they had fallen into the hands of extreme Protestants caused consternation among many Belfast Catholics and increased the fear caused by the present wave of sectarian killings.

The disclosures also come at a highly sensitive time for the Army. Because of the 17-week-old ceasefire, a deliberate attempt has been made in recent months to restrict contact with the media and in present a new low-key image.

In addition to a file of photographs marked restricted, documents handed by the paramilitary group to the *Sunday Times* include a makeshift dossier of Provisional suspects in the Ardara district.

Last night the Government's refusal to intervene in the controversy was criticised by the moderate *Irish Times*.

No promises made to churches on land Bill, ministry says

By Our Political Correspondent

The Department of the Environment yesterday made it clear that in the proceedings on the Community Land Bill in a standing committee of the Commons on Tuesday night no firm undertakings were given about the treatment of land owned by churches and charities.

It is wrong, therefore, to say that concessions have been won, or that the churches have an assurance that they will be able to redevelop their land without interference from the local authority.

Mr Oakes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Environment, stated that the Government accepted the spirit of the new clause moved by Mr Kevin McNamara, which was concerned with the exclusion of ecclesiastical charities from the duty on but not the power of local authorities to acquire development land. The clause also dealt with valuation of land so acquired when the basis of land transactions come to be changed to current use value.

The Government hopes to be able to let the standing committee know later its firm proposals after further consultation with the interested parties.

Mr Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, who is in charge of the Bill, has said that on the acquisition powers of local authorities useful discussions have been held with the churches and charities, and much progress has been made.

In my report on the committee proceedings yesterday I stated that the churches will not be subject to development land tax. The Government points out that no such statement was made. It was also wrongly stated that the Government had agreed that parish land would be completely exempt from the provisions of the Bill. The Government had discussions with the National Association of Local Councils on the basis that the local authorities will have the power but not the duty to acquire land held by parishes.

On the general issue, the Government is well aware of the view of the churches of the impact of the Government proposals on their landings. Mr Wilson and Mr met distinguished leaders on April 23 and then that, within the period of the Government's commitment would give sympathetic consideration of the raised. That has been during the proceedings of the Bill.

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Judge urges curbs on dishonest house agents

By a Staff Reporter

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, yesterday called for stricter controls on the activities of dishonest estate agents. He drew swift support from two professional organizations representing estate agents.

He was speaking in the Court of Appeal, which was considering a case in which an undischarged bankrupt set up as an estate agent, obtained several deposits on houses and disappeared with the money.

Lord Denning said: "While most estate agents are of good standing and credit, there are a few who are not. Some issued printed forms with stipulations that were most unfair, and others collected deposits and defaulted. He knew all responsible members of the profession would support any tighter control to prevent these abuses. I wish that Parliament could find time to deal with it."

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said: "Among the 25,000 practising estate agents in the country you are bound to get a few black sheep. When there is a boom people tend to make a quick buck, but there were only a tiny number of offenders compared to the number of transactions."

The institution favours a system whereby a house agent could obtain a licence to practise as long as he was covered by an indemnity bond or insurance.

The Secretary of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, Mr J. A. Crockett, said there had been many schemes for registration or licensing of estate agents, but they had always failed. The society believes that the law should be changed to make it a penal offence to take a deposit in an estate agency transaction unless the agent was adequately covered by indemnity insurance.

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NUJ quits talks on Fleet Street pay

By Raymond Perman

Labour Staff

The National Union of Journalists decided yesterday to withdraw from negotiations with the Newspaper Publishers' Association over its claim for 25 per cent pay rises for Fleet Street members. The union will seek to continue talks with individual managements at "best endeavours".

The move follows decisions by the managements of *The Guardian* and *The Observer* to withdraw from the talks. Mr Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the N.U.J., said that as it was coupled with the decision by the Mirror group of news-

papers last year not to take part in any future national talks the union saw no useful purpose in going on. He added: "The union does not recognize the right of managements to contract out of any of their obligations as members of the NPA. Either the NPA is a national negotiating body or it is not. We regret this, for we believe that it is in the industry's interests to have a national agreement."

The *Guardian* is understood to have withdrawn because it wants to match negotiations for its staff with those in progress at its sister paper, the *Observer*. The *Observer* is understood to have taken its decision for financial

reasons. Both managements will still take part in other NPA activities.

Advertisement dropped: An advertisement calling for funds to set up a printing works without union labour had been dropped from last month's issue of *The Director* (our Labour Staff writer) because of pressure from the National Graphical Association, the union representing printing craftsmen.

A leading article published today in the magazine, which is the journal of the Institute of Directors, says that the incident raises the vital question of the freedom of the press.

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Although computer facilities are available, a system for all criminals would be costly. Some categories of criminals, such as those who are violent, could easily be left out, and so presumably those guilty of more serious offences, which do not involve a criminal record.

The chief value of blood data would be in burglary and theft cases, to be the first clear-up rate is poor, at less than a fifth in London, and where criminals frequently leave bloodstains behind by cutting themselves on glass or doors.

Rape cases could be solved more easily. Limited but useful biochemical links can be made between blood, semen and saliva. A town with 100,000 inhabitants might contain fewer than 70 men with the rarest pattern of biochemical fingerprints, if samples were fresh enough to identify it.

Although strong biological evidence might be acceptable in court without further evidence, such a system would have to have safeguards. Any suspect would have to give a blood sample, checked against computer records in case they had gone wrong.

"I think it is making a small but significant contribution at the moment and it could be a great deal better," Mr Bryan Colford, chief principal scientific officer at the Lambeth laboratory, said yesterday.

In principle, it might be possible to discover unusual genetic evidence about everybody. In practice, there are only likely to be limited improvements in the system, but scientists believe that a public already inured to blood-testing in drink and driving cases should be willing to accept blood data banks in the fight against crime.

Home Office plan to store details of criminals' blood

By David Leigh

The Home Office is considering supporting a change in the law to allow blood samples to be taken from all convicted criminals and the details stored in a computer. Forensic scientists are convinced they have refined blood analysis to the point where it can be used in a similar way to fingerprint records.

Research over the past 12 years has greatly increased the information that can be gained from bloodstains. The policy committee of the Metropolitan Police and the Home Office have been watching the work done on a pilot scale over the past year at the Metropolitan Police forensic science laboratory at Lambeth.

Scientists there believe that in a few months they will be able to pin down any bloodstain as one in a thousand, and some far more precisely. Such results are likely to be improved further in the near future.

In recent years, the laboratory has been collecting blood samples left by people suspected of committing crimes and by their victims, and storing records of those of convicted criminals on computers. With fewer than 5,000 samples, they have been offering police printouts of matching small groups of suspects or matching blood types.

Scientists now want a full blood data bank established. Those convicted of criminal offences would have to give a blood sample as well as fingerprints and photographs. There are several difficulties in the way of such a system, apart from the civil liberties aspect. The Home Office may defer

bringing it in until computerized blood-testing is shown to be efficient.

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Hint of rail action from Prime Minister

Continued from page 1

rail would not be allowed to go by road.

Failing early outside intervention in the dispute the 24 members of the NUR executive will dispute tonight to assist in the planning of the strike and will not be recalled to London unless a serious offer is made in response to their claim for rises of up to 35 per cent.

Total deadlock in the negotiating relationship between the NUR and British Railways Board was reached yesterday when Mr Herbert Farrington, board member for industrial relations, told the union that the employers stood by their commitment not to go beyond a 2.5 per cent arbitration award, and the union reaffirmed its determination to implement the stoppage.

One member of the NUR executive was absent from yesterday's brief meeting because of illness, but he had previously voted for the stoppage. The railwaymen's leadership is therefore totally entrenched behind its strike-bid claim for wage rises as big as those given to miners, postmen, civil servants and electricity supply workers.

At its monthly meeting, the miners' executive agreed to instruct NUM members not to do work normally done by railwaymen, not to cross their picket lines and to cooperate with local NUR strike committees.</

HOME NEWS

Central and local government must operate in resource-planning, ministry's financial officer says

Christopher Warman, financial officer of the central government, said today that central and local government must operate in resource-planning, a ministry's financial officer says.

Mr Warman said that the central government must be able to restrain the growth of spending, Mr T. E. Cauticot, principal financial officer, said in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr Crossland, secretary of State for the Environment, and emphasized the importance of central and local government co-operation in the planning of resources.

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New small BMWs: To back up its successful 5 series of four-door models, BMW is to launch a new range of smaller, two-door cars, the 1 series, next month. They will be called the 116, 118 and 120 and will have engines developed from those of the 1602 and 2002 models to deliver higher power on cheap regular grade low-lead fuel.

Civil servants' action may hinder dispersal

By Peter Hennessy

The Government's programme to disperse 31,000 civil servants from London to the regions over the next nine years may be seriously delayed by a decision of the Ministry of Defence Whitley Council staff side to withhold cooperation and withdrawal from discussions on the timing of the operation.

The ministry has the largest number of civil servants affected by the programme. Under the latest provisional timetable, 11,000 officials will be transferred from its headquarters in London; 6,000 to Glasgow and 5,000 to Cardiff, beginning in 1979.

Sir John Wilson, second permanent secretary for administration at the ministry, will be told today in a letter from Mr William Wright, chairman of the departmental staff side, that cooperation will be withdrawn until Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, provides assurances that only staff who volunteer will be dispersed, and that there will be no redundancies among staff in non-mobile grades who are not eligible for transfer. Realistic estimates of the cost of the operation over a decade are being sought.

Defence will enhance its efficiency.

Under the terms of the 1972 national staff agreement, all civil servants in the administrative and executive grades come under a mobility obligation and must accept transfer to any part of the country during the course of their careers. The Civil Service Department is unlikely to waive that obligation without a decision at ministerial level.

Senior civil servants, who are among the angriest at the Government's dispersal plans, are doubtful about the wisdom of transferring the ministry headquarters machinery to Glasgow and Cardiff in view of the Government's intention to devolve substantial powers to Scottish and Welsh assemblies which are expected to be established in 1977.

The cost of the operation at a time of economic difficulty is also thought to be unacceptably high. Tentative estimates indicate that the cost of dispersal for the Ministry of Defence alone could exceed £200m over 10 years.

TV company astonished by 'blackening' of series

By a Staff Reporter

Yorkshire Television yesterday described as incredible a decision by the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians to "black" a series entitled *The World of Television*.

The first of the six-part series was shown last week, but the second, which examines Japanese television, did not appear on the network on Wednesday.

The company said the films were designed to reflect the state of television around the world, and reviews for the first programme indicated that the series would show the strength and vitality of British television compared with television abroad.

It seems a particular piece of irony that this accolade for British television should now be blacked by the television technicians' union and so denied to British viewers, it said. The union believes that the production does not conform to union rules, and breaks manning agreements.

GPs 'faulted by patchiness'

By our Medical Reporter

Family doctors, as a group, have so far been unable to offer a guarantee of minimum performance, Dr Donald Irvine, honorary secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners suggested yesterday.

Dr Irvine said in *Pulse*, the doctors' journal, that the profession must be responsible for its own quality control.

There was evidence from prescription patterns, college membership examinations and hospital consultants of wide variation in the quality of clinical practice. Hospital laboratory facilities were available, but not used by all. Auxiliary staff subsidies, aimed at increasing practice efficiency, were not fully employed. The result was patchiness in the quality of general practice.

erilization made hurt ward

Legal Correspondent

A Sheffield girl aged 11 is at the centre of the case over whether she should be sterilized. She has been made ward of court.

gh Court judge en breath by police

re Borrell

Land Yard said yesterday that Justice Cumming-Bruce, of the High Court of Family Division, for the first time, was stopped by officers of the Metropolitan Police on Wednesday night and a breath test.

In brief

EEC voting in White Paper

Sir Philip Allen, chief computing officer in the Home Office, has had the certified figures of the voting published as a White Paper by the Home Secretary.

Chamberlain papers

The papers of Neville Chamberlain, deposited in Birmingham University Library by his family, will be made available to all accredited research workers from next month.

Park tolls hint

Tolls may have to be introduced on some roads in national parks because of heavy traffic, Mr J. A. Davidson, of Cheshire council, told a conference of the Institution of Municipal Engineers at Scarborough yesterday.

Liverpool MP fined

Mr Robert Parry, Labour MP for Liverpool, was fined £200 at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for failing to provide specimens for analysis. His driving licence was endorsed.

File on protests

A file on farmers' demonstrations at Ty Croes, Gwynedd, last autumn, has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions by the British Transport Police.

Rail crash inquiry

A public inquiry into the train crash at Nuneaton, Warwickshire, last Friday, will be held at the North Staffordshire Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, next Friday.

Chapel wall collapses

A wall of the 160-year-old Methodist Chapel at Cheltenham, near Tiverton, Devon, collapsed on to pews yesterday. The hot weather dried out the wall and caused movement.

Correction

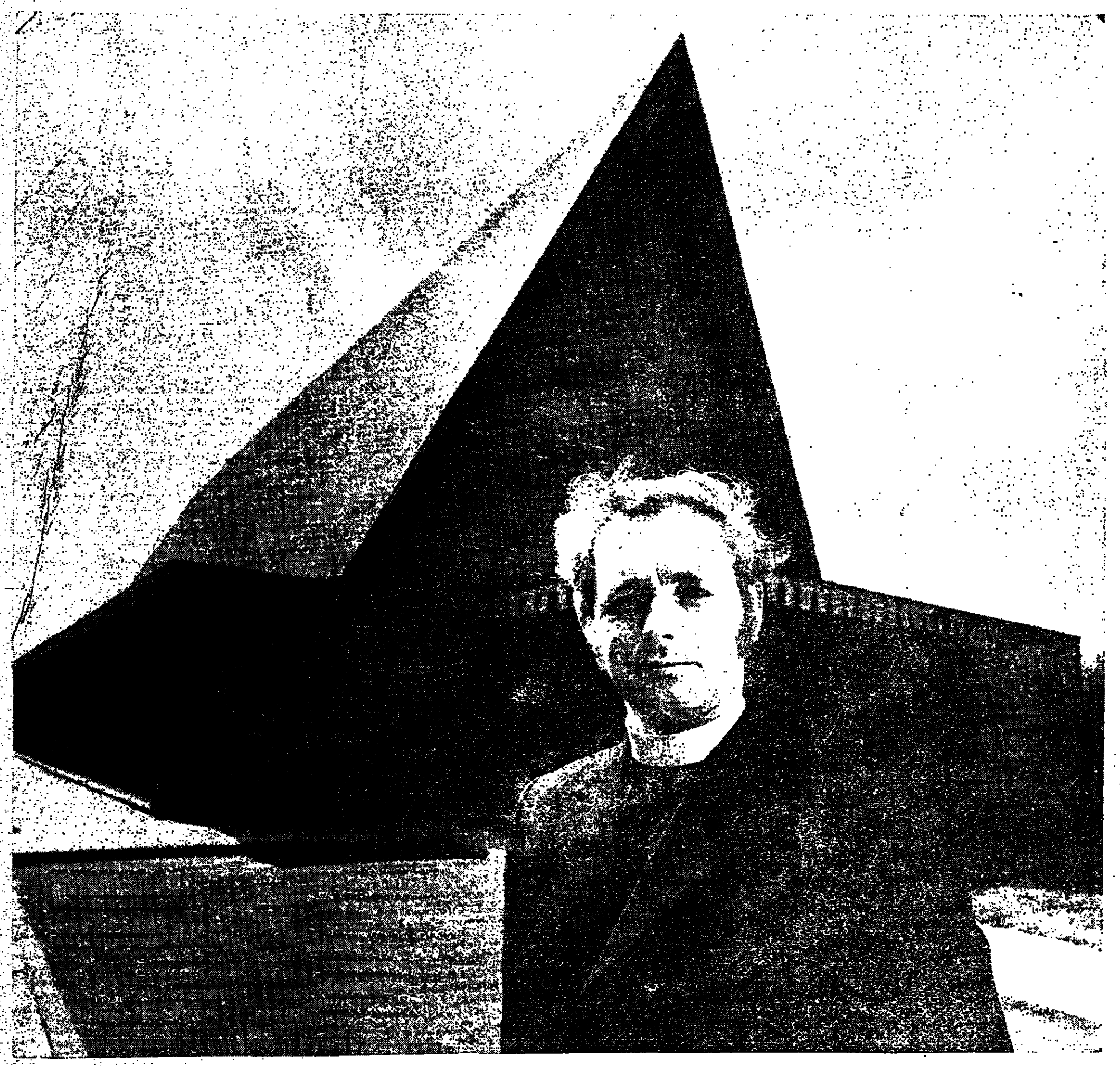
In a Special Report, 150 Years of Railways, on June 9 a photograph captioned as being an advanced passenger train was in fact the high speed diesel train.

Condition proves the key Eastern carpet prices

aldine Norman

Room Correspondent
The sale yesterday attracted prices with a sale of Eastern carpets and textiles. A highly decorative silk rug, made in Herakle, made the top bid, £8,085 (estimate £4,500 to £5,000). It measures 4ft 3in by 6ft 6in and was in excellent condition, highly important in the market.

Field, 1969 (estimate £450 to £500) and £462 (estimate £450 to £500). Also in the sale at Christie's was a large rug of Mount-Gothard 1929; the equivalent of six bottles. It was sold for £720, the highest auction price on record for a rug of any size. In the great Lotte and Mouton sale last week, the highest price was £600 for a case of Lafite 1945, and a case of the same wine went for £255 at Sotheby's.



How to make a virtue of necessity

Everyone knows there's an energy crisis. It's a fact of life. But everyone has to use fuel. It's a necessity of life. How to make a virtue of necessity? Make sure you use the right fuel for the job. And that you use it efficiently. Gas is the right fuel for many jobs. Because it's more efficient, economical and controllable. That's why it heats the Reverend Parry's new Methodist church of St. George's at Telford. And that's why it's used in heating so many other public places - from hotels to hypermarkets, from libraries to laboratories, from bus depots to swimming baths. Among the virtues of gas that make it so attractive for a multitude of uses are that if you use it efficiently you're helping Britain and helping yourself: helping Britain's balance of payments by saving unnecessary imports of oil. And helping yourself because your fuel bills will be more reasonable. Virtue is its own reward.

NATURAL GAS TOO GOOD TO WASTE

SAVE IT

BRITISH GAS
Our Vital Industry

HOME NEWS

Bomb-trial witness says he harboured Kenneth Littlejohn after jail break

From John Chartres
Lancaster

A prosecution witness at the Birmingham bomb trial in Lancaster admitted yesterday that he had harboured Kenneth Littlejohn, the self-styled "spy" between the night of the attacks on the city centre on November 21 and his arrest early in December.

Mr Thomas Watt, of Alum Rock, Birmingham, gave evidence of having been shown a sketch of how to make a bomb by one of the six men accused of murdering 21 people in the Mulberry Bush and Tavern in the Town explosion.

Mr Watt, who said he worked in the same factory as two of the defendants, John Walker and Noel McKenny, said Mr Walker had shown him a sketch of a bomb mechanism using a clock or a watch with a timing device.

During cross-examination by Mr Michael Underhill, QC, who is representing Mr Walker and Mr McKenny, Mr Watt admitted harbouring Kenneth Littlejohn.

He was advised by Mr Justice Bridge that he need not answer further questions if he thought he would incriminate himself but Mr Watt went on to say that he had known the Littlejohn family for many years and had sheltered him while he was being sought by the British and Irish police after his escape from prison in Dublin. He took him into his home on the night of the Birmingham bombings.

He said he had reported Mr Walker's bomb sketch to the police, who had asked him to keep an eye on Mr Walker. Mr Walker's next-door neighbour in Enderby Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham, Mrs Beatrice Wicket, described how about nine weeks before the

November bombings she was awakened by a noise in the night and saw Mr Walker and three other men get out of a car. They carried two plastic bags, which seemed to be heavy as though they were filled with sand or plaster, and a cardboard box into Mr Walker's house.

Her son, Mr Paul Wicket, said that when he was in the house alone last summer he saw Mr Walker and two other men carrying large blue plastic bags from the boot of a car into the house. During last year there had been a number of explosions in the Birmingham area and Mr Walker always seemed to disappear after each of them, usually for two or three weeks.

Another acquaintance of the accused men called to give evidence by the prosecution said he was in the College Arms public house in Kingstanding when Michael Sheehan, who is accused of conspiracy and pos-

sessing explosives, came in carrying a cardboard box. He joined Mr Walker at a table, opened the box and took out an alarm clock. Mr Michael Bourke said: "Mr Walker wound it up, listened to it, held it to his ear for a few seconds, and said while laughing: 'Isn't that a beautiful tick?'"

The six men accused of murder are: Hugh Callaghan, aged 44, unemployed, Patrick Hill, aged 30, unemployed, Robert Hunter, aged 29, unemployed, Noel McKenny, aged 31, millwright's mate, William Power, aged 29, unemployed, John Walker, aged 40, crane driver. Three others are accused of conspiracy to cause explosions. They are: James Kelly, aged 32, and Michael Sheehan, aged 47, and Michael Murray, aged 38. Mr Sheehan and Mr Kelly are further charged with possessing explosives.

The trial continues today.

Embassy aid for Pakistanis to set up own school

By Peter Evans

The Pakistan Embassy is seeking land in Bradford to provide a school for Muslims. Dr S. M. Zaman, education counsellor, told me that the intention was for the community to pay for the school. A second may be provided later, possibly in Birmingham.

The plan to set up the schools is the result of a long-standing demand from Pakistani parents in Britain and a promise of help from Mr

Abdul Pirzada, Pakistan Minister of Education, made in January, while on a visit to Britain.

Many Pakistanis do not like their daughters attending mixed schools. They feel it is against their social customs and religious beliefs, which stipulate that believing men and women who have reached the age of puberty should guard their modesty. Girls are not allowed to enter the free society of males.

A report published yesterday by the Union of Muslim Organizations of United Kingdom and Eire says: "No Muslim girl ought to go to a mixed secondary school" is to be sent to Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science, seeking support for the plan by the Pakistan Government to set up schools.

The moves by Pakistanis will be seen by some educationists as a curb to enthusiasm for

integration. There is a strong desire within each immigrant group to cling to its identity.

But immigrants would reply that that would not prevent them from participating in the wider community. Rather would it give them greater confidence to do so. There are signs that, as young Asians break away from their communities and seek greater freedom, which some would call permissiveness, conflict may result within families.

The Order of St John installs its leader

By Philip Howard

The Duke of Gloucester was installed as Grand Prior of the Order of St John yesterday with ceremonial of the time of the crusades. But, paradoxically, the Grand Prior's office still has an extremely practical contemporary charitable purpose.

The order was founded in the eleventh century in Jerusalem as a hospital to help poor and sick Christian pilgrims. Alone of the great orders of chivalry of the Middle Ages, it still does approximately the job for which it was formed.

That is probably as well, since the violent and sometimes antisocial activity of the other orders would be less welcome today than in the St John Ambulance Brigade.

The most venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem runs the great ophthalmic hospital at Jerusalem, designed as a consulting hospital for the whole of the Middle East, and organizes first aid and nursing services throughout the world. Its eight-pointed cross, once a Crusader emblem, is now a familiar badge at all disasters, great sporting occasions, and wherever the modern descendants of the hospitaliers may be needed.

Yesterday's ceremony would have gratified the most ardent medievalist or spectacular television producer. A procession of more than a hundred knights in cross and banner-bearers, and dignitaries with such antique titles as the Bailiff of Egle and the Lieutenant of the Commandery of Ards, took part. The ceremony was carried in. The Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and Princess Alice,



The Duke of Gloucester, second in the procession

swelter, they were wearing nothing but bathing suits under their heavy, high-necked mantles.

With elaborate oaths and liturgies the Archbishop of Canterbury installed the new Grand Prior in his chair of dignity in the Grand Priory Church of St John. The cross of the order, a magnificent example of Italian Renaissance repousse work, first used by Grand Prior Robert de Maillory in the fifteenth century, was carried in.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, watched the duke as the archbishop admonished him: "Remember that to whom much is given, of him shall much be required".

The Duke was handed his prodigious, two-handed sword of emblem of his temporal jurisdiction. In his turn, he invested his wife as a Dame of Justice in the order and five new knights grand cross.

Then the trumpets fanfared one last time, and the great, gaudy crocodile wound through Clerkenwell to St John's Gate, looking like extras in a Technicolor epic.

Councillor 'did not know cheque was firm's'

A councillor told Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court yesterday that he opened a bank account with a cheque from public relations officer of building company working in his council's area, while not knowing the cheque was from the firm. He said a cheque was handed to him by the bank manager, and endorsed by the bank manager.

Thomas Gerrard Herron, 40, of Sunnyside, near the head, has denied corruptly receiving £500 from Cyril Albert King of Walsham, a close friend of the councillor's, for a job as a public relations officer for Carl Contractors and a former member of Pontefract.

Mr Herron had invited his go with him to a religious ceremony in East Berlin but said he could not afford to.

Mr Byrne said: "I'll give you all right. You'll get the money. I received a telephone call from him to meet him in Newcastle and when I got there, he had an appointment with a bank manager and was going to open an account for me for £500. I nearly died. I was bloody joking, and he said: 'What for? Look, you're going to Berlin. It's a hell of a long way. You and Mrs. Byrne have given me.'"

Mr Herron said that if he knew the cheque was from Carl Contractors he would have realized that it was a bribe and taken it to the police. The trial continues today.

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Birth control in China for equality

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Birth control in China is used as a means to achieve equality for women, Dr Graham Leung, adviser on education to the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said in London yesterday. Women in China are encouraged to marry late, limit their family size, and space their children, he said.

Ninety to 95 per cent of fertile women work full time and receive equal pay with men. They get 56 days maternity leave, and are encouraged to have children at four-year intervals.

One of the main motivations for birth control in China was for women to achieve complete equality with men, Dr Leonard said.

"No one claims that equality has yet been achieved, but all that I met insisted that this is the ultimate goal of both sexes in China", he added.

He was speaking at a lecture at the Family Planning Association, after his return from China. His talk was one of a series being organized by the association to mark International Women's Year.

Dr Leonard accepted that birth control education was not fully effective. Community birth planning committees discussed with women when they would like to have babies over a period of 10 years, and quotas were allocated accordingly. But in two areas visited by Dr Leonard, at least one woman in 10 disregarded planning despite all pressures, and had babies "out of turn".

Setback to campaign for Anglican woman priests

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The campaign for the ordination of women to the Anglican priesthood has received a severe setback from the Church of England's top committee, the standing committee of the General Synod, which is to recommend no further action at present.

It remains to be seen whether the synod will follow that advice in next month's debate, but the standing committee has in the past proved a pretty solid barrier to a pretty solid committee. A reaction in the light of the clear division of opinion, the absence of overwhelming support. A substantial majority of dioceses "no fundamental objections" to ordination, but fewer than half favour removal of legal barriers.

The most likely calculation of the General Synod's own conclusions would have it siding with the majority on the question of principle, but accepting the standing committee's advice to leave it at that.

As a result of a previous debate of the General Synod after requests from the 1968 Lambeth Conference and the 1971 Anglican Consultative Council, 43 dioceses of the Church of England were asked to consider the matter. Many dioceses held debates not only at diocesan synod level but in deanery synods and parochial church councils, and the issue proved one of the most controversial for years.

Each diocesan synod was asked whether it had fundamental objections, and if not

whether it wanted the removal of barriers. Some time ago (The Times, March 10) it appeared that the first proposition would have the support of a good majority of diocesan synods, but that they would be almost equally divided on the second.

The standing committee, which publishes the full figures today, found that 30 dioceses out of the 43 had "no fundamental objections", but only 15 favoured removing barriers. In five more dioceses the bishop's decision alone prevented an affirmative vote on the second proposition.

In a report accompanying the diocesan figures, the standing committee says the necessary overwhelming support is absent.

In a second report issued to General Synod members today, it is stated that four provinces of the Anglican Communion—Burma, Canada, Indian Ocean, and New Zealand—have approved the principle, while the Anglican diocese of Hong Kong already has three women priests.

The Welsh and Scottish branches of the Anglican Communion have agreed in principle but decided that further action would be "inexpedient" at present. Central Africa, the South Pacific, Ceylon, and Singapore have decided not to proceed with the question. The rest of the Anglican Communion is in various states of indecision.

The Anglican Consultative Council, the consultative body of the international Anglican Communion, is to consider the matter further next year.

Talks stop plan for protest at Wimbledon

By a Staff Reporter

Anti-apartheid campaigners agreed yesterday to call their planned demonstration at Wimbledon a tournament after general assurances from Howell, Minister of Sport, that he would not question of sporting with South Africa.

The campaigners, from All Racist Tours (Start), Mr Peter Hain, president, Young Liberals, and of the Anti-Apartheid movement, wanted to force the Foreign Office to refuse work permits if they were professionals, or entry if amateurs.

Mr Hain said after the minute meeting with Howell yesterday that Foreign Office had replied to that request. He was clear that Mr Howell, who had been in the next year or so would action from him to link links between non-racist clubs in South Africa Britain.

Universities' errors

In a personal retrospect in Times Higher Education 11 ment today, Joel Hurstfield the question: "What went with the universities?" Th an investigation into the that sell worthless degrees a review by Dorothy Wedd of A. B. Atkinson's work inequally.

Milk and meat producers seek better return

Higher prices were needed to maintain milk and sausage supplies, industry leaders said yesterday.

Mr Wallace Day, challenger in the forthcoming election for a seat on the Milk Marketing Board, said in London: "Producers must have at least another 7p a gallon for milk. I suggest another 4p for the summer months and 10p for the winter."

Mr H. M. Newton-Clare, chairman of the Meat Manufacturers' Association, said in London: "The Government recognizes that the food industry is on its knees and that if something is not done quickly we shall not be able to feed this country in 10 years' time."

Home-killed lamb cheaper this weekend

Home-killed lamb should be as much as 3p a pound cheaper this weekend than last, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said yesterday.

But there were few other reductions, and the persistent hot weather has pushed the prices of salad vegetables sharply upwards.

From my information in the past week in London and the productive area of Worcestershire the average price of one English strawberry is between 21p and 3p, or between 50p and 51 a pound.

Growers of soft fruit and salad vegetables who suffered from rain and cold soil in April have to contend now with heat and lack of moisture. Wholesalers in London reported yesterday that round lettuce were fetching 18p each in shops while the cos and Webb's Wonder varieties were as high as 25p.

Tomatoes have also increased

Food prices

Hugh Clayton

As prices so this few shops are offering them for less than 30p a pound while many will charge 40p or more this weekend. Spring onions have risen by 2p or 3p to about 12p a bunch, and celery, carrots and cauliflower remain extremely expensive.

What, then, should the lover of fresh food buy? Some sea fish has become cheaper, with cod falling below 50p a pound in some shops, and haddock to less than 60p. Crabs are improving as the summer advances, and those on offer at 77p or 39p a pound are rather larger than those sold at the same prices a few weeks ago.

Mushrooms remain cheap at 6p

to 9p a quarter, and some

potatoes, although small, are

able at 35p to 40p a pound.

potatoes from the Channel I

have fallen slightly in the

week to 12p to 18p a pound.

Many supermarkets are

better, all imported, for 1

3p for a half-pound packet.

is cheaper than some of the

expensive types of margarine

home-produced butter.

Frank offers far better

than vegetables this weekend.

ample supplies of citrus

and a good choice of other

ports, there are plenty of

apricots at 18p to 22p a

while cherries cost 30p a

more. Rhubarb is still

dear, a slight price rise

Louise Davies, the Govern

ment food price consultant, recom

a three-quarter pound

rhubarb stewed with

lemon, served cold.

Fresh pineapples are as

25p each for small examp

market stalls.

The New York Extra.

New! 11:00
Flight PA 101. Leave London Heathrow at 11:00. Arrive 13:35 at New York's John F. Kennedy airport. By big comfortable 747.

New! 13:30
Pan Am announce an extra flight to New York. Flight PA 102. Leave London Heathrow at 13:30. Arrive at JFK 16:20. By comfortable 707.

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18:00
The last flight of the day to New York with 747 comfort. Flight PA 001. Leave London Heathrow at 18:00. Arrive JFK at 20:35.

WEST EUROPE

Botswana says EEC levy spells disaster for its cattle farmers

On Michael Hornsby
Brussels, June 12
Some 80 per cent of the cattle of Botswana will be deprived of their livelihood by the EEC and European Economic Community suspends its present levy on the import of beef into Britain, Dr G. K. T. Chiepe, Botswana Minister for Commerce and Industry, told a press conference in Brussels today.

In the strongest attack so far on the operation of the Lomé Convention, which was signed in February by the EEC and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, he said that a levy, averaging about 20 (244) a ton, had taken away 46 per cent of Botswana's earnings from sales of beef to Britain.

Botswana exported to Britain the full quota of beef allocated for 1975 under the Lomé Convention, but payments would amount to more than \$18m, Dr Chiepe said. The British market accounted for 64 per cent of Botswana's meat exports. A levy would mean a decline of 56 per cent in the income of the country's cattle farmers. The problem was exacerbated, he said, because in some cases the levy had to be paid four weeks before receipt of the sales proceeds. This meant that the Botswana Government was having to borrow money to pay the levy.

"It is now a matter of days before the Botswana Meat Commission [which buys meat from the farmers for sale abroad] will be forced to close down," Dr Chiepe said. "It will have to tell the producers, 'We cannot buy your cattle any more'."

So far, proposals by EEC officials for alleviating the problem, such as reducing the amount of the levy for certain cuts of meat, have "only scratched the surface," Dr Chiepe said. "Nothing less than a complete removal of a very substantial reduction of the levy would suffice."

Under the Lomé agreement, Botswana, Madagascar, Swaziland and Kenya were allowed to export beef duty-free to the EEC, but a variable levy designed to bridge the gap between EEC and world prices remained payable in full. Botswana was also entitled to a special fund for offsetting the adverse effect of price fluctuations on developing countries' export earnings.

Lisbon makes UN history

On Jose Serebrenik
Lisbon, June 12
The United Nations Committee of 24 meeting in Lisbon today is the first to be held in Europe. The inaugural sessions were held under the presidency of General Goncalves, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

General Goncalves spoke of Portugal's policies towards South Africa and Rhodesia, and said that solutions to both countries' difficulties were to be found only in "the effective application of the principle of self-determined independence" approved in the United Nations anti-colonialist declaration of 1960.

During further sessions, the committee will discuss the Spanish Sahara, New Guinea, and the Portuguese overseas territories. The Portuguese Government has been the signing a pact of friendship and cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, the first of Portugal's former colonies to gain independence. The pact was signed in Lisbon yesterday by Senhor Aristides Pereira, the secretary-general of the former Guinea independence movement, PAIGC, and President Costa Gomes.

Two million immigrants are putting a heavy strain on union acceptance of heavy unemployment

Germany's dilemma over 'guestworkers'

On Dan van der Vast
Bonn, June 12
The Bonn Cabinet has decided what a Government spokesman later described as a "stocktaking" of the situation of foreign workers in West Germany.

His was not, he added, being prompted, to be so meaning that a new word of "Damocles" had hung over the heads of the country's foreign labour force of more than two million.

The Cabinet devoted most of its time at today's weekly meeting to foreign workers. It is a subject which has not been discussed in detail for some time, but the subject is not new.

Some months ago, state secretary for Civil Service (a) from five ministries were formed into a committee to make a preliminary report on the subject to the Cabinet within a month.

A review ordered today is like being caught in a rough and can be expected to lead to some kind of action, he said, when the report is presented to the Government, especially if West Germany, as seems likely, has still to overcome the present situation.

Last month there were, roughly, 2.2 million foreign workers in the union federation (DGB) triennial "Parliament of our" congress in Hamburg at the continued presence of two million foreign workers when more than a million West Germans were out of work, and nearly another million on short time.

This kind of complaint is something that the Social Democratic Government, like the present administration of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, can hardly afford to ignore, especially when Herr Schmidt himself promised cheerfully to "solve the West German economy would be 'over the hump' by early summer."

So far from that being the case, all the economic omens portend a further deterioration, especially in unemployment, for the summer.

The Cabinet today also decided to push for discussions within the European Community on the problem of foreign workers to achieve a common policy. West Germany still has by far the greatest number, in both absolute and percentage terms, of foreigners among its labour force compared with the rest of the Nine.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said, there would be no change in the policy of non-discrimination towards foreign workers, though the block on recruitment of labour from outside the EEC, imposed in November 1973 at the peak of the oil crisis, would remain in force.

The most recent headcount of foreigners in West Germany showed that 2,250,000 alien workers of these, as many as 300,000 could have returned home since it is estimated. This is something, the new

Majority of Spaniards 'anxious for change'

From Harry Debeaux
Madrid, June 12
Most Spaniards feel that Prince Juan Carlos is ready to take over from General Franco, Spain's leading weekly magazine reported today. It announced also that police took 17 interviews into custody conducting the survey which revealed this attitude.

The magazine, *Cambio-16*, a frequent target of fines and temporary closure orders issued by the Ministry of Information and Tourism, published the results of the public opinion poll in its latest issue. Of the 1,348 people questioned in 90 towns, 61 per cent thought that the prince was ready to become chief of state, 13 per cent said he was not, and 27 per cent did not express an opinion.

The poll also showed that a majority of Spaniards (51 per cent) are in favour of his carrying out liberal reforms. But those who dared to express an opinion about whether the prince would carry them out were almost equally divided: 31 per cent said yes; 30 per cent no.

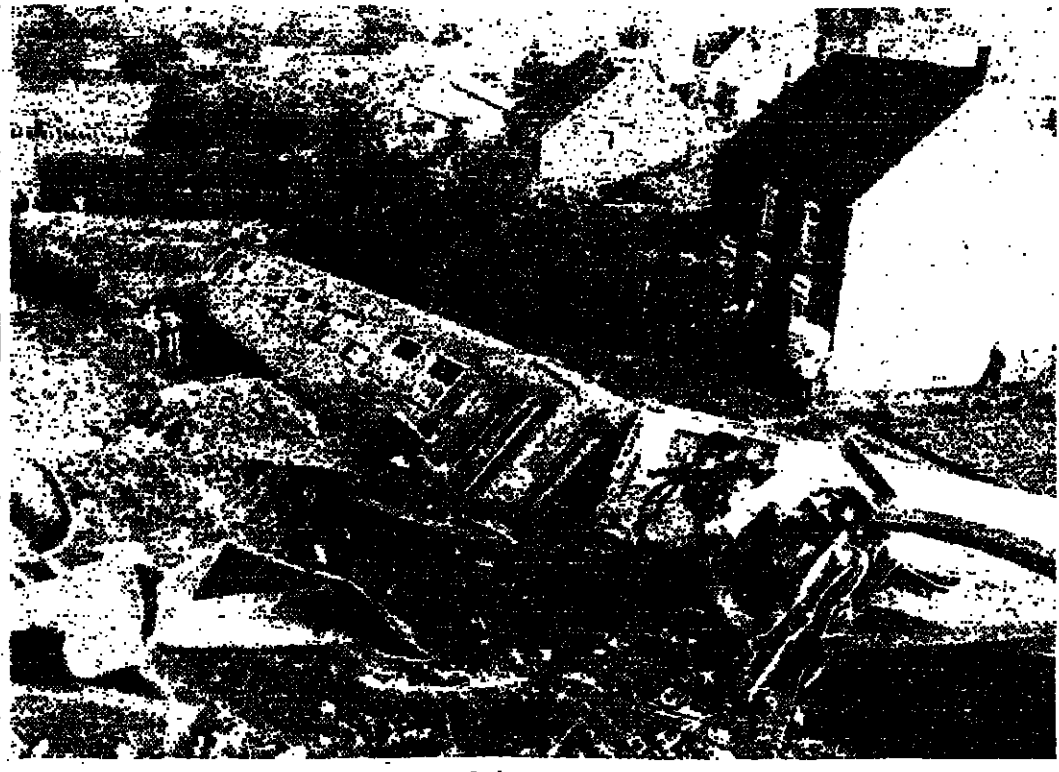
Moreover, 54 per cent said they were in favour of holding a referendum on Spain's "fundamental laws," which guarantee the prince the vacant throne.

"Given the exaggerated disaffection which has surrounded the public figure of the Prince of Spain, and his negligible or non-existent intervention in public affairs," a leading article said, "this opinion of the Spanish people is surprising and very significant."

Publication of the poll results came two days after Señor Pio Cabanillas, the former Minister of Information and Tourism, called on the 82-year-old dictator to resign and conferred with Spanish officials.

Dr Waldheim told the officials that Algeria and Mauritania had agreed to a Spanish initiative to hold four-power talks on the future of Spanish Sahara, but Morocco opposed Algeria's presence at the conference.

Spanish officials told Dr Waldheim that Spain wanted to leave the desert colony as soon as possible after ensuring a peaceful future, in accordance with the wishes of its people, the sources added.



Paris express crashes: Wrecked coaches of the Amsterdam-Paris train lie scattered after jumping the rails yesterday. Seventy-six people were injured, two of them seriously, in the crash.

Spain 'will not fight over colony'

Madrid, June 12.—Spain has told Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General of the United Nations, that it would not go to war over Spanish Sahara, but would withdraw from the colony as soon as possible, according to highly placed sources.

Dr Waldheim arrived here from Rabat yesterday on the last leg of a tour of four countries interested in the phosphate-rich territory. He called on General Franco today and conferred with Spanish officials.

Dr Waldheim told the officials that Algeria and Mauritania had agreed to a Spanish initiative to hold four-power talks on the future of Spanish Sahara, but Morocco opposed Algeria's presence at the conference.

Spanish officials told Dr Waldheim that Spain wanted to leave the desert colony as soon as possible after ensuring a peaceful future, in accordance with the wishes of its people, the sources added.

It could be either an independent state or part of Morocco or Mauritania, the two countries which claim the territory.

The sources said Spain made clear to Dr Waldheim its view that the colony was not worth a single drop of Spanish blood. Spain's phosphate earnings from the territory were eaten up by the cost of maintaining troops there.

Spain feared it would be caught in a crossfire between Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria.

Algeria has not formally claimed Spanish Sahara but it backs a leftist freedom movement, called the "Frente Polisario," which opposes the Moroccan and Mauritanian claims, as well as the Spanish presence.

According to the sources, Spain was now confident that the Spanish position had been fully explained to and understood by Dr Waldheim.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: Spain undertook last year to hold a referendum in the colony by last May, but Morocco's subsequent request for a ruling on the matter by the World Court in The Hague caused the referendum to be postponed.

General Franco's Government has repeatedly stated its determination to grant independence to the sparsely populated territory, which is about half the size of continental Spain itself. Morocco, however, insists that the Spanish "overseas province" should become a part of Morocco.

Recent armed clashes, including the capture by guerrillas of Spanish soldiers and the capture by Spanish troops of Moroccan soldiers, have heightened the tension in the area.

Rome editor sentenced to two years' jail

From Peter Nichols
Rome, June 12
The sentencing of Signor Renato Ghiotto, former editor of the weekly *Il Mondo*, to two years' imprisonment for printing a secret dispatch to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brought strong protests in Italy today.

The dispatch from the Italian Embassy in Lisbon was dated October 4, 1974, over the signature of the Ambassador, Signor Girolamo Messeri, who has since been transferred. His attitude to the changes in Portugal were described in *Il Mondo's* headline introducing the report as "incredible."

Signor Messeri is often described as having a reactionary outlook.

Signor Mariano Rumor, the Foreign Minister, protested against the publication, and Signor Messeri took legal action.

In a Rome court last night, Signor Ghiotto was found guilty on three counts: Defamation, acquiring information which concerned the security of the state, and publishing it. He said in his own defence that the word "incredible" did not constitute defamation, that he had not sought the report which reached his office anonymously through the post, and that he was not aware of its highly confidential character.

The Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* today described the sentencing as "part of an offensive in motion against those organs of the press not inclined to limit themselves in official sources."

Meanwhile, Signor Ghiotto remains free pending appeal.

Seals remain on the doors of 'Republica'

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, June 12
The offices of the suspended newspaper, *República*, were not opened today as expected. The newspaper was closed down three weeks ago after a deadlock dispute between the editorial staff and the printers.

Last weekend, members of the editorial staff announced that the home security force, Copcon, which had put the seals on the door, had been asked to remove them this afternoon. The Revolutionary Council had given its approval some days before after considering *República's* case.

All was set for the unsealing at 3 pm today, but Copcon issued a communique stating: "The unsealing of *República's* offices was publicly announced for June 12. Copcon informs that this act is scheduled for Monday, June 16."

The communique gave no reason for the delay, but private sources said it was because the security force was unable to spare enough men.

Confidence vote ends Belgian coalition crisis

Brussels, June 12.—The Belgian Government today survived a parliamentary vote of confidence over the Cabinet's decision to equip the Air Force with American F16 fighters instead of the French F1 Mirage.

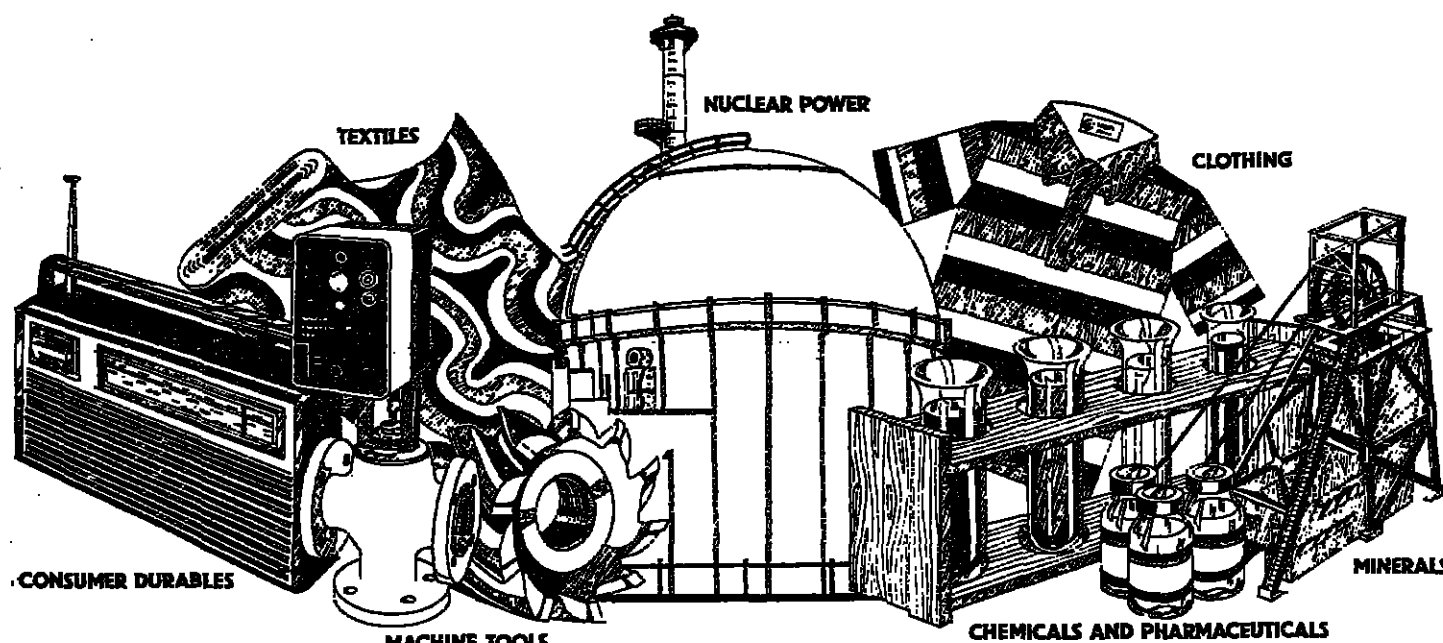
The vote in the Lower House Chamber of Representatives was 112 to 91, with three abstentions.

The vote ended a crisis that threatened to topple the ruling coalition of Social Christians, French-language Federalists and right-wing Liberals.

The crisis arose because the small Rassemblement Wallon federalist party, which holds the balance of power in the Government, opposed the decision over the purchase.

Caravelles grounded

Paris, June 12.—M. Marcel Caville, the Transport Minister, said today that he had ordered the grounding of all Caravelle 12 airliners because of metal fatigue under the wings.—Reuters.



Some distinctly profitable surprises are coming out of today's South Africa.

'A country of boundless resources' states the distinguished Italian journal 'Il Tempo'. But did you realise that many of these resources are only now coming to light?

1975's most taxing decision for the businessman is almost certainly: "Where do I go to find new profits?"

For all sorts of surprising reasons, you may well find the answer to that question is 5,000 miles away. Because South Africa, always known as a giant in the sphere of raw materials, is changing fast, and in ways that could prove extremely profitable to you.

● New mineral discoveries of major importance.

Already richly endowed with minerals, the new discoveries of Copper, Lead and Zinc reserves in the North-West Cape, are regarded to be of major importance.

Speaking on these new discoveries, the Minister of Mines, Dr. Piet Koornhof said these indicated "an enormous new mineral region."

The strength of the economy harnessed to create a sophisticated industrial infra-structure.

During 1975—at a time when the rest of the world reels under the effect of inflation—South Africa anticipates substantial growth in real terms with an estimated average annual growth in GDP of around 6% for the next 5 years.

This growth will be underpinned by the critical ways in which South Africa's economy is being tailored. Already there is a dynamic move towards manufacturing: over 20% of today's GDP is made up of private manufacturing output. The weight of money to be injected into the South African economy over the next few years is staggering. It will ensure for the incoming investor the infra-structure facilities needed in the future.

Here are a few random samples of some of these dynamic developments which may interest you directly.

1. In the next 10 years the South African Government, in terms of its obligations, is to spend

R500 million on buying White-owned land which is to be handed over to the Black Homelands. An Investment Corporation is to be established for each Homeland.

2. Continuation with the massive Saldhana Bay project for export of iron ore and semis.
3. Introduction of a modern container service and major extensions to harbour facilities and the railway system.
4. Some R1,050 million (at present day prices) is being invested in an oil-from-coal project, which is to have 10 times the production capacity of the present plant.
5. Phosphate concentrates production is expected to double by 1976.
6. A new Polypropylene Plant in Durban, expected capacity 50,000 tons, will be coming into production early 1978.
7. R200 million is to be invested in expanding chemical production: projects include a coal-based acetylene plant, and a polyvinyl-chloride plant.
8. The Republic's first nuclear power station is being constructed, and R915 million is being invested in coal based and hydro-electric capacity.
9. South Africa's Iron and Steel Corporation plans to increase capacity from 4 million to 11.3 million tons by 1984.

Other projects include plant for semi-finished steel, an Ethylene Cracker, Phosphoric Acid plants, huge extensions to refineries... and much, much more.

● South Africa joins the enriched uranium 'league'.

In April 1975 the South African Prime Minister announced that a pilot uranium enrichment plant at Valindaba has been brought into operation. With the United States, Britain, West Germany and France, South Africa becomes one of the only five Western Countries involved in this advanced field of science and engineering.

The new South African UCOR-process (unique in its conception and developed exclusively by South Africa) has performed highly satisfactorily in the pilot plant.

A full-scale proto-type enrichment plant is expected to come into production in the early 1980's.

In hard cash terms, what does it all add up to for you?

Firstly, South Africa can offer you a wide selection of manufactured goods, with good (and reliable) delivery dates. Quality is high, price competitive. When you enquire you'll be amazed at the range available: from textiles, clothing and household durables through to some highly specialised technical products.

Secondly, don't think of South Africa only as an export market. You'll almost certainly do better by setting up your own plant in the Republic, preferably on a joint venture basis. (Capital investment in the Republic not only enjoys one of the highest returns in the world; there is no restriction on transfer of profits back to the UK.)

There are many, many other favourable factors to consider. The incentives and growing prospects in the black homelands. The helpful similarities between South African and British commercial law. The quality controls imposed by the South African Bureau of Standards. All these create favourable business and investment opportunities in the Republic.

But the most important thing to do is to act right now.

How to take the fullest possible advantage of our free advice.

Our job is to give you all the help and information we can. If you want to invest in South Africa or if you wish to import from South Africa, contact:

THE MINISTER (COMMERCIAL)
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA,
SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON WC2N 5DP. TELEPHONE: 01-930 4488.



Trading partners for over 200 years.

Adler-Meinhof fence

On Our Own Correspondent
Stuttgart, June 12
An controversy over prison conditions and the fitness to stand of the four alleged terrorists dominated the fifth of the Adler-Meinhof fence in Stuttgart today.

The court was dealing with a motion by the defence which asked that "brain-washing, any confinement and torture methods" had been used by the defendants during their years of detention awaiting trial as part of a "premeditated destruction process."

Prison doctor told the court, Andreas Baader, aged 32, Karl Raspe, aged 30, were in a stand trial. He based his motion on previous knowledge of their behaviour in court, which was immediately subjected to a cross-examination by the defence, which accused him of "prejudice, challenged his professional competence, and proposed that he be excluded from the case on the basis of bias. The court rejected this request.

Spanish minister dies in crash

Madrid, June 12.—Señor Ferrer Tejero, aged 54, Spain's Minister of the Interior, was killed in a car accident near Madrid today.

He was in collision with a truck. He is survived by wife and three children.

Greece makes application for full EEC membership

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, June 12
Greece today lodged a formal application for full membership of the European Economic Community. Mr. Stephanos Stathatos, the Greek Ambassador to the EEC, was received by M. Frantzus, the President of the European Commission, and told that his country's request would receive "open-minded" consideration.

The Commission thinks that such a gesture would have a political and psychological impact that would help to reinforce democratic forces in Portugal. Any aid would, however, be tacitly conditional upon the preservation of basic civil liberties.

Not long after the return of democratic rule in Athens last year, Greece made known its intention to seek EEC membership under the terms of the association agreement it has had with the Community since 1962. Brussels reaffirmed that this should be the ultimate goal.

The relevant clause of the 1962 agreement states in characteristically Delphic prose that full membership may be considered at such time as it is "possible to envisage the integral acceptance by Greece of the obligations of membership arising from the EEC (Rome) Treaty."

This could be strictly interpreted to mean that full membership would not be possible before 1984, the date of the completion of full customs union between Greece and the EEC. But the

Greeks want accession to the Treaty of Rome by 1978 at the latest.

None of the present Nine would admit to being anything but favourably disposed in principle to the request for Greek membership, but can be denied that with the removal of the colonels, during whose rule the association agreement was put on ice, Greece has fulfilled the political requirements for entry.

On Portugal, which is seeking a broadening of the free trade agreement it has with the EEC, the Commission has proposed, in addition to financial aid, some easing of import restrictions on certain "sensitive" Portuguese products.

Our Athens Correspondent writes: While the Greek application was being submitted in Brussels, Mr. Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, summoned the ambassadors of the EEC countries represented in Athens and explained why Greece wished to join the Community nine years before the date set by her agreement of association.

He said: "I would like to emphasize that Greece does not seek integration solely for economic reasons. It is primarily on political grounds that our application rests, reasons related to the consolidation of democracy and the destiny of our nation."

Mr. Karamanlis, in a television address, was more explicit: "It is now clear that Greece, by joining Europe, shall reinforce her external security and consolidate her democratic system."

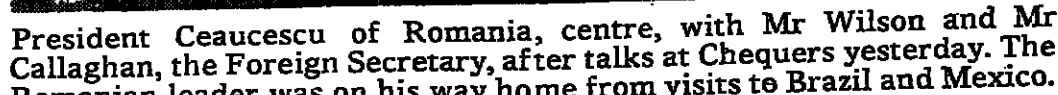
Chairman of House committee on CIA is forced to resign

Mr Nedzi at first resisted demands for his resignation by setting up a special subcommit-

killed in 1961, General Prugnot, the Dominican Republic dictator, also in 1961, and General Schneider, in Chile in 1970.

It could have raised prices here by 1977 to about \$1

there, and the Bills failed.



normal competitive conditions

Melbourne, June 12.—Mr will appear with him. S
- broke his free on bail.

charges of theft and conspiracy. Welfare.

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, June 12.

area would try to accommodate itself to new and peaceful attitudes. The alternative was to go all at once to an over-

President Sadat, his big boost at home since he ordered his armies to cross it in October 1973. However, his chronic

clear that he will not tolerate any interference from whatever source in the manner in which he pursues his peace policy.

(continued)

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Damascus, June 12
and Jordan are to se

100%

The trustees of the Research Awards have

evaluation of the
and methodology of
Apprentice School. R. H.
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Biology: Cells and obesity

Hormones such as insulin regulate the storage and release of fat from fat cells according to the body's needs. The effects of the hormones on the fat cells in

**Ex-Service
Men's Association**
GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE

severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

75

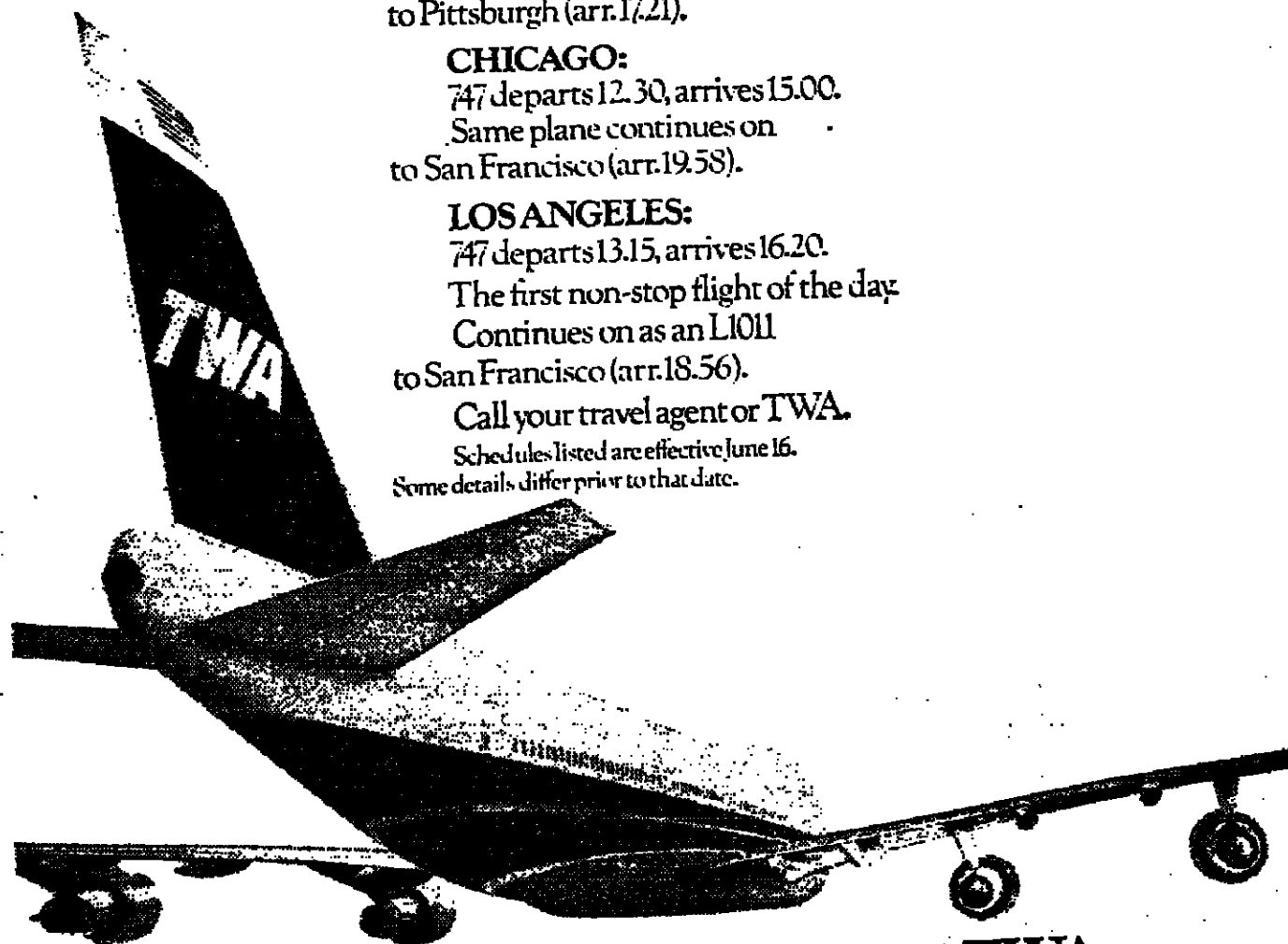
I need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

[illegible]

**TWA.
FIRST OF THE DAY
TO THE USA.**

Call your travel agent or TWA.
Schedules listed are effective June 16.
Some details differ prior to that date.

Trans World Service from TWA.



VERSEAS

Mr Smith and ANC leaders agree on constitutional conference but not on where it should be held

by Frederick Cleary
Nairobi, June 12

Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Minister, and the African National Congress (ANC) agreed today on a constitutional conference but could not agree on where it should be held.

Mr Smith said he did not go outside Rhodesia, nationalists said they would not go outside Rhodesia, but would attend a conference in Rhodesia.

Two sides met for about an hour at Mr Smith's office. Afterward, Bishop Muzorewa, the ANC president, told reporters: "We are ready and willing to go to a constitutional conference any time and at any place in the world."

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Kenya rebels lose their posts

By Our Correspondent
Nairobi, June 12

In a further reaction to yesterday's demonstration of Parliament's independence, the report of a select committee of the House of Representatives, the Kenya National Assembly, has been adopted.

It has been used in processed foods for years. Bisto, Sainsbury, Marmite, and other brands of "crispy pancakes" all contain some and it accounts for 7 per cent of the weight of a Ross frozen family beef pie.

But in its latest guise it comes in small, gritty lumps, coloured brown by the processor, accompanied by recipe leaflets in which it replaces meat in shepherd's pie, curry and spaghetti bolognese.

Its promoters say that it can do everything for the diet that meat can do, only more cheaply, with less fat and without the agony of the slaughterhouse. This may turn out to be the most misconceived marketing campaign of the decade since the ability of soya to disguise itself as meat is severely limited.

Whereas meat changes colour and taste during cooking and exudes savoury juices, soya lumps remain the same and absorb liquid without adding flavour. However much they are boosted with yeast extract and herbs to inject them with something like a meat flavour, they still have a rubbery uniformity which immediately distinguishes them from diced beef, lamb and pork.

The more a meat dish depends on meat for its character, the less likely it is to stand successful soya substitution. Nobody, to my knowledge, has yet produced a juicy rare rump steak, done to a turn and made entirely from soya protein, although American companies have produced uncannily convincing imitations of a few meats.

The best recommended that processors should be allowed to replace up to 30 per cent of the authorized minimum meat content of processed foods with vegetable protein as long as the substitution was admitted on the label.

Beef sausages must have half of their weight in beef, and in recent years this constraint combined with the high price of meat has eroded the great traditional selling advantage of the sausage—its cheapness. Sausage men

therefore welcome the vegetable protein recommendation, and their only remaining problem is to ensure that the powerful farming lobby does not persuade the Ministry of Agriculture to overrule the Food Standards Committee.

The National Farmers' Union has already murmured to the Government about powerful commercial interests pushing soya so hard that there may not be enough time to make sure that consumers are fully safeguarded. The Farmers' Union of Wales has urged every education authority there not to use what it describes scathingly as "mock meat" in school meals.

The commercial and political battles about soya have submerged the continuing campaign by vegetarians to promote soya protein as a means of weaning people away from bits of dead animals as a staple food. A visit to a health food shop leaves the inescapable feeling that the vegetarian movement needs the marketing flair and cheek, not to mention the money, of the orthodox food manufacturing and retailing trades.

One of the most fashionable comments about the food industry today is that its extravagance in feeding cereals to livestock has deprived the world's poor of arable crops in order to maintain an unjustifiably expensive source of protein in the developed countries.

It therefore seems strange at first to find in a health food shop in London that a tin of meatless Bolognese sauce costs almost twice as much as its conventional equivalent containing a little floating mince. Moreover a packet of "vegetable stew" produces much the same amount of thin gruel as a packet of meat soup from a large manufacturer for three times the price.

Certainly, the vegetarian companies use better ingredients, and they do not benefit from the cost-savings of immense factory production lines. But they also have a captive market, and most are too small to be subjected to the Government price and profit controls that constrict large "mainstream" food companies.

There is every sign that in this nation of animal lovers it is price rather than abhorrence of the abattoir that will dictate the choice of most consumers when they buy protein foods.

Hugh Clayton

Why the meat lobby needn't worry about soya yet

"Nobody has yet produced a juicy rare rump steak made entirely from soya protein"

of sinister creeping vegetarianism. Indeed, some of the largest companies in the food processing industry are investing heavily in the promotion of soya protein in meat dishes, but vegetarianism does not come into it.

The last thing food processors want to do is to stop people eating meat, since they sell that as well as soya. Craig Miller, which makes County Farm vegetable protein for caterers, is part of the Unilever empire, which also embraces Birds Eye beefburgers and Walls sausages. RHM, which makes a soya product called Protina, also manufactures pig feed.

They are not remotely interested as yet in selling soya in shops, but are concentrating hard on persuading canteen managers and school meal organizers to save money on their Shepherd's Pie by replacing some of the mince with soya bits.

Crosse & Blackwell is the only large company to make the great leap forward into shops with a soya mince additive. That product is very heavily salted and breaks down if overcooked so that the resulting dish of mince may taste as if someone has poured flour into it at the last moment. But it still terrifies some farmers.

Their worst fears were confirmed earlier this year when the Government's Food Standards Committee recommended that processors should be allowed to replace up to 30 per cent of the authorized minimum meat content of processed foods with vegetable protein as long as the substitution was admitted on the label.

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Hugh Clayton

The satisfaction of a woman's desire for power



arranged a coup (seemingly to give only an unwilling acquiescence) and convinced in it that she had ordered the murder of her husband.

Unlike her predecessors, Catherine did not become the tool of the faction which had raised her to the throne (her lover Orlov and his brothers). The desire for power which had led almost complete serfdom was now satisfied, and for 30 years she controlled Russia. There is an extraordinary dichotomy between the way she exercised that power, and the way she presented herself to Europe. Under her, Russia made great territorial gains at the expense of its neighbours Turkey and Poland. The nobility was strengthened, and brought into alliance with the throne, and the free Russian peasantry was reduced to a state of almost complete serfdom, while the existing rights of serfs were removed; where before only the head of the family was tied to a particular estate, now the whole family was; where before the serf had some right of appeal against his master, now he had none, unless that master killed him (when it was too late).

Meanwhile Catherine assumed the role of a benevolent despot, an enlightened philosopher, and she was so effective in her country and bringing it from the medieval to the modern world. She fought not Turkey, but the infidel: the state of the Russian peasants was so happy that there was not one who could not eat a chicken when it pleased him. Her Proposed law-reforms were never put into effect, her educational reforms brought about a minimal achievement, but her propaganda was so effective that she was accepted by many in Europe at her own valuation as a liberal politician and philosopher, and this, together with Russia's economic and territorial expansion, gave her a power and influence far beyond Russia. And power was what she desired.

Her personal creed is perhaps best encapsulated in her Instructions to her Legislative Commission of 1767: "The Sovereign is absolute, for there is no other Authority but that which centres in his single Person that can act with a Vigour proportionate to the Extent of such a vast Dominion."

This judgment may be harsh. The existence of the "Potemkin villages" shows that Catherine needed to be reassured that the condition of the peasantry was as prosperous as her propaganda claimed. Russia was far better administered at the end of her reign than at the beginning, but it is hard to mean by which this was achieved were at variance with the image she presented to the world, it is possible that the person who believed most fervently in that image was Catherine herself.

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African sports apartheid to stay

by Michael Knipe
Town, June 12

After Saturday's match against the visiting French side, when four black players were in the South African invasion team, a rugby administrator expressed the hope that a multi-racial team selected on merit might tour Britain in 1978.

However, the international boycott of South Africa hinges on the racial segregation at club level, and Mr Smith was adamant that this will not change. Sport was important, he said, but not as important as the Government's policy of separate existence and development of the races.

During the parliamentary debate on sport, Opposition members criticised the Government's policy of separate existence and development of the races.

One member said applying sanctions by refusing facilities was precisely what the Government had decided in the case of the world, Monday was the only night it could be spared for non-whites.

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New Zealand optimism on trade links with Britain

By Our Correspondent
Wellington, June 12

Mr Rowling, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said today he hoped that a new trading relationship with Britain within the framework of the agreement reached at the

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area
ALSO ON PAGE 8

OPERA AND BALLET

ROYAL OPERA 240 1971
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CONCERTS

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL
June 13-24
The Aldeburgh Festival, Suffolk
Tonight: *Die Fledermaus*
Tomorrow: *Die Fledermaus*
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THE ARTS

The slide area

The Day of the
Locust (x)
Empire, Leicester
Square

Barry McKenzie Holds
his Own (x)
ABC Bloomsbury and
Fulham Road

The Klansman (x)
London Pavilion
Brannigan (a)
Odeon, Leicester
Square

For 35 years, since his death
in a car accident at the age of
37, Nathaniel West has stood
as a daunting challenge to
Everett, to film makers. Like
Scott Fitzgerald he belonged,
in the end, to Hollywood, and
found in that bizarre edge of
the world his ideal microcosm.
His novels have a continuity not
unlike screenplays, and they
are written in images—always
vivid, often lurid.

Yet no one has had much
luck in bringing him to the
screen. West himself went to
Hollywood in the wake of *Miss
Lonelyhearts* which had been
bought by Twentieth Century-
Fox, and actually worked on the
script, that was to emerge as
The Day of the Locust (1933).
Twenty-four years later the
novel was filmed again, and was
all the more tragic for the
appearance in it of a ruinous
Montgomery Clift.

Until now there has been no
other successful attempt to film
a West novel, and John
Schlesinger and his associates
apparently have a long battle to
bring *The Day of the Locust* to
the screen.

In his finest novel, West saw
Hollywood through the eyes of
Tod Hackett, "a very complica-
ted young man with a whole
set of personalities, one inside
each other like a nest of Chinese
boxes" who between working
as an assistant art director is
painting a massive picture of
an apocalyptic "Burning of Los
Angeles".

As he discovers
more of Hollywood, his masters
Greener, the broken, third-rate
comic who has even his own
death, and his daughter Fay,
armoured with her unobtainable
egoism and movie-script fan-
tasy. Then there are the
Cheated, which is the title West
intended to give the novel, the
people who have "come to Cali-
fornia to die", who "realize
that they've been tricked and
burn with resentment."

Somewhere between the
Dreamers and the Cheated
stands Homer Simpson, the real
hero and the victim of the
story, so scared of even en-



Jackie Haley and Gloria Le Roy in "The Day of the Locust"

countering his own thoughts
and dreams that he tries "to
leave them behind like his hat."

Though the very nature of
film is selectivity, it is not the
same rigorous exclusiveness of
West's prose. There is a scene
in West, for instance, where
the shock and effect is in the
unexpected reaction of the cow-
boy, Earle, who suddenly brains
the Mexican, Miguel with a
lump of wood in the film the
moment is laboriously ex-
plained and built up in ad-
vance, with a montage to ex-
pound the cowboy's growing
jealousy of Miguel's flirtation
with Fay.

Again, the collapse of the
great film set, just a bizarre
incidental episode in the film,
is made central in the book,
with Tod as a principal in the
event. So the balances are
changed. In his screenplay
Waldo Salt has interpolated his
new set-pieces not anticipated
by West—an Aimee Semple
Macpherson revivalist meeting
which gives Geraldine Page a
chance for a cameo perform-
ance, and builds up Burgess
Meredith's role as Harry
Greener.

Salt and Schlesinger, taking
their cue from the date of the
novel, 1933, have endeavoured
to find the chemical acci-
dent, and the route to that
destination takes them through
a medical equivalent of
Dickens's labyrinthine Court of
Chancery.

On such terms, the play
arouses nothing but admiration.
It is, at the same time, a
masterly study of an infertile
marriage to reach the British
stage, and it brings to the
subject a combined documen-
tary and emotional power which
fully transmits the experience
of being exiled from a basic
human right.

Physical indignities are glossed
over. Sperm tests, post-coital
water immersion, copulation to
the alarm clock—we see the
couple performing for the doc-
tors like trained animals, and
somehow surviving with their
sexuality intact. Rudkin's
achievement, likewise, is to
have put them through this
mechanical ordeal without in
any way belittling them as in-
telligent and sensitive people.
In that sense, the play is the
tragedy of a relationship
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David Robinson

up far beyond West's original
vision of the anger of the
Cheated, into a holocaust, a
conscious symbol of the war
itself.

It is an ambitious reading;
and it is no longer West, but
something else: a costly period
piece a lot of contemporary
colour is lavishly thrown in on
the lines of Jack Clayton's
Gatsby, moving in to a finale
of *Earthquake* spectacle.

I find Karen Black too loud
for Kay's effect upon the men
around her to be credible; and
William Atherton too soft for
Tod. Elsewhere the casting and
performances are unexpected
and interesting in result. On
second viewing I am more con-
vinced by Donald Sutherland's
Homer, the man whose great
hands have a mutinous life of
their own, closely observed
from the book; Burgess Mer-
edith's Harry is horror-comedy
personified; Jackie Haley is
so exactly the odious Adore
Loomis, the aspiring child star-
let, that his death under the
feet of Homer comes danger-
ously near a happy end.

One figure above all stands
out (without precisely tower-
ing) as a perfect embodiment
of West's Hollywood hinterland
of the daff and defeated and
depraved. Billy Barry, who
plays the malicious dwarf Abe
Kusch, was in Hollywood even
before West, and must have
seen much of that world in the
forty and odd years of Holly-
wood obscurity since he was a
child star at Warners. He was
the wide-eyed elf who was for-
ever peeking under screens
when Ruby Keeler and the
chorus were dressing, or know-
ing perambulators, as the
cast *Petted in the Park*. As a
balding, grim-faced, middle-
aged man he gives the character
of Kusch a viciousness and
truth and anger, and the film its
most authentic moments.

Writing about *The Cars That
Ate Paris* last week I did Barry
McKenzie Holds His Own the
injustice of classing it as a sex
comedy. In fact there is little
sex and less comedy about it.
Its misanthropy is on the scale
of Swift, and its scatological
worse; and that is as far as the
comparison serves.

The story has McKenzie and
a party of swilling fellow
Australians racing across
Europe to save Aunt Edna
Everage, housewife, from the
attentions of a Transylvanian
Count vampire who has kid-
napped her under the (mis-
taken) impression that she is
the Queen of England. The
film's most inspired moments
of visual comedy are where one
character will vomit realisti-
cally in the face of over the
head of another; the script
tends to puns. Not to be ungen-
erous, this sort of thing may
well find a want; there may still
be audiences who find libera-
tion in shrieking with joy as
audience subsidised reluctantly
into glum silence. Also the con-
centration of the piece is dis-
sipated in the open expanse of
the Vic Road, furnished only
with a bed and a desk.

But generally his contribution
is spartan and self-effacing. This
leaves two excellent quick
change performances by Ann
Mitchell and Paul Shelley, and
the central duet of Ian
McKellen and Emma Jones.
This partnership does not con-
vey the sense of marital privacy
one remembers from the *Open
Space*, but Miss Jones at least
plays with an emotional truth
showing a delicate personality
advancing through stoicism and
collapsing into coarse anger
and bleak withdrawal. Mr
McKellen, alas, has taken the
husband's Irish background very
much in earnest, and has
mashed his delivery into a stew
of Belfast, Birmingham, and
Lancashire; the voice takes pre-
cedence over character and the
meaning of the lines. It is an
energetic and committed per-
formance; but not easy to listen
to.

James King, Donald McIntyre
and Ruth Hesse return to the
cast, all more strongly identi-
fied with their roles than mem-
ory recalls. Everybody who
knows the opera (not only
Strauss' greatness, but prob-
ably the most fascinating and hu-
manly searching of all operas
since *Pelléas*) must be enraged to
see the long, visible shadow
cast by Miss Harper in a play
about her quest for precisely
that apurtenance, a shadow. It
is in many other ways a friv-
olous production of a very serious
drama. Musically this revival
arouses for visual shortcomings
with a musical efficiency and
splendour not to be missed, a
glit-edged event on the operatic
scene.

Heather Harper seemed a per-
ceptive choice for the Empress;
she has the high register, the
lightness, and also the weight
for the ordeal scene. In this
performance her voice tired

tion was never really exciting,
the *Svoboda sets* mannered,
visually austere, and far too
short on the magic which is es-
sential to the contents (and of
which Svoboda on those days
was particularly famous). In the
past we used to complain about
the vocal shortcomings. Less so
this time. Helga Dernesch is
just the right soprano, actress
and singer, for the Dyer's wife,
bedraggled voluptuousness,
touching as she recalls the
pretty boy she once fancied,
moving in expression and phras-
ing when she cries aloud in the
subterranean vault, for her hus-
band, and inspiring in the final
quartet of reunion (with firm,
loud voices heard from the
dome of the auditorium).

Heather Harper seemed a per-
ceptive choice for the Empress;
she has the high register, the
lightness, and also the weight
for the ordeal scene. In this
performance her voice tired

at first with only partial suc-
cess, but increasing in convic-
tion with each scene, especially
when he and Collier were
dancing together. The relation-
ship between stage and audi-
torium in the tent does not, I
think, favour the big romantic
ballets, which look better in a
real theatre. The two princi-
pals went a long way towards
overcoming that, but without
enough supporting detail to
give more than a general sense
of ardour.

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CAPITAL TRANSFER TAX

Child of the storm

by Oliver Stanley

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to present his first Budget to the House of Commons in March, 1974—after only three weeks at the Treasury—the confrontation between government and unions was at the forefront of everyone's minds and dominated his fiscal strategies. A sense of national unity was badly needed, and what stronger unifying force than a barrage of new taxes designed to squeeze the beastly rich until the pipes squeaked?

From the outset Mr Healey offered capital transfer tax (CTT) not as a means of raising revenue but for particular social services; nor to withdraw demand from the economy; nor to correct the imbalance of payments, matters to which he might have been expected to allot priority treatment at the time. The transfer tax was tendered as a means to achieve social justice and equality on our society, a recurring theme in Mr Healey's first Budget speech.

There was to be a wealth tax which would take from the rich and give to the poor. More immediately, however, the estate duty loopholes, needed to be closed. If, in Mr Healey's view, the existing estate duty had operated successfully, then the great concentrations of wealth would have already been broken up, so destroying the unfair advantages enjoyed by the heirs of wealthy men.

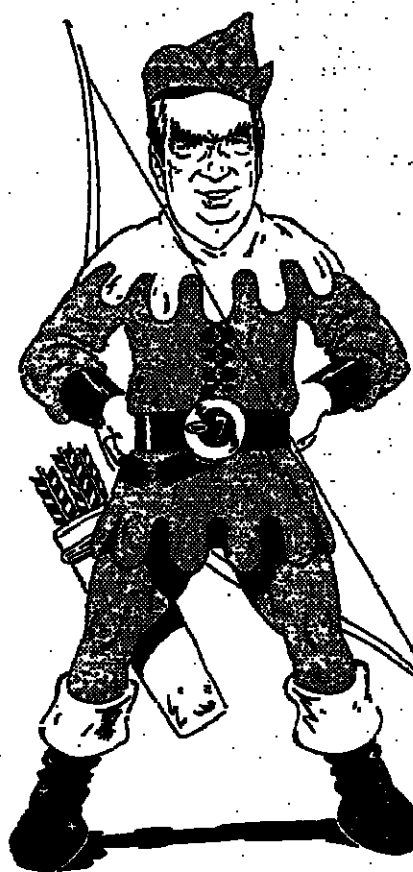
It was in this stormy climate that CTT was conceived. One might have supposed from what Mr Healey had said that estate duty was much as it had

been when first introduced in 1894. In the early days of its life that tax had been riddled with loopholes, but over the years these had been substantially blocked, so that the old sneer of "a voluntary tax" hardly applied.

However, until 1974 you could still avoid estate duty by giving wealth away to members of the next generation, provided you took the precaution of surviving for seven years after the date of gift. In this sense estate duty was still avoidable, and death within the seven-year inter vivos period was a contingency against which it was possible to insure.

Another weakness was that the discretionary trust as a duty-saving vehicle had survived the attacks made on it by Mr Roy Jenkins, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in 1969. The use of gifts and trusts helped owners of land and businesses to protect themselves against a tax which rose quite steeply to a top rate of 85 per cent although whether those two pieces of machinery were responsible for the "unfair advantages enjoyed by generation after generation of the heirs and relatives of wealthy men" is questionable. Mr Healey's phraseology seemed more apt for Russia in 1917 than Britain in 1974.

The question now, 15 months later, is whether the CTT in its final form will perform the social functions claimed for it. This is a question answerable in three ways, all at least partly true. First, you can argue that the social impact of taxation is always much less than expected. In practice taxes change the fabric of our society slowly and imper-



Malcolm Harrison

ceptibly, and their influence as weapons in the class war has consistently been overestimated. Capital gains tax, for example, does not appear to have exerted much social influence during the decade since its introduction. Since 1965 the stock market has boomed and slumped, the rentier classes have got richer and then got poorer because of influences much more formidable than capital gains tax. The effect of tax is probably to flatten some of the peaks. Increasing inflation and the rise and fall of share and land prices

even having to break up a family business to meet the tax liability. Policies should be written in trust for the proposed absolute benefit of the intended recipient of the gift.

Provided the premiums are payable out of what is vaguely known as normal expenditure, they will not constitute a charge for capital transfer tax and, in addition, tax relief will be available on the premium. No tax is payable when the policy matures or becomes a claim. Conventional endowment assurance for a payment at a specified date can be used but it may be more practical to take out a more flexible policy which provides a guaranteed cash sum after 10 years but can be cashed in at any later date (together with accruing bonuses) if that is a more appropriate time to make the gift. Alternatively, a cluster of identical small premium policies, each of which can be encashed separately, could be used.

This kind of arrangement has been devised basically with lifetime gifts in mind. However, it might be that death will occur before the gifts have been made. As the tax rate on death is higher than that levied on lifetime gifts of up to about £250,000, the policy proceeds on death might be insufficient.

With this in mind, term assurance could be used to complement the original policy to provide the extra money which might be required at death.

The second specific application of life assurance to the exigencies of the capital transfer tax is in the use of last-survivor assurance. Under estate duty where

in the future. This time they shall not escape the guillotine, and those that do will presumably be soon found pawing their corners, and queuing for kind-hearted national assistance.

CTT charged at, say 50 per cent, on an estate of £100,000, means that half the farm or business will need to be sold to pay the tax, leaving the next generation of heirs with only half a farm or factory. Suppose now that a buyer for half a business can be found, or that 125 acres of farmland is not an economic proposition.

If CTT works as it should, then one of the consequences is going to be greater fragmentation of fairly small farms and businesses, or failing that, the gradual transfer to the state (owner of last resort) of many businesses, weakened by the withdrawal of capital to pay the tax. That does not sound an ideal society to most of us.

The real difficulty with CTT lies in conceiving and producing a tax which is not so strong as to destroy the very society which we all want to make just and equal. The course of CTT so far—the long germination from Budget speech to Royal Assent—shows Healey heavily over-egged his pudding at the outset, and came to realize that he had done so half way through the committee stage.

Second thoughts are always best. Whether in the end, he has got the mixture right is unlikely, and amendments to the law annually for the next few years can be safely predicted.

The author is managing director, Comprehensive Financial Services.

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Insurance men's hats in the air

by Margaret Stone

Capital transfer tax has not endeared itself to the denizens of the City; far from it. However, when insurance men wear their corporate

hats, their doubts and worries as individuals are replaced by happier thoughts of the new business which could roll in as a result of the new tax.

It is not untrue to say that capital transfer tax has given the insurance industry a new lease of life. Insurance, like everything else, is governed by fashion and, since the effective demise of the guaranteed income bond in the 1974 spring budget, the insurance industry has been searching for another inno-

vation, or new application for an old idea upon which promotion can be based. Capital transfer tax has filled the gap admirably.

In recent months the insurance companies have been flooding the desks of brokers and anyone else who is interested in insurance with a huge volume of literature designed to show how useful life assurance can be in solving some of the problems which inevitably will be thrown up by capital transfer. Unlike the tax it superseded, estate duty, it cannot be described as voluntary.

There is nothing particularly new in the recommendations of the industry, which is basically suggesting new uses, in the light of the circumstances changed by capital transfer tax, for an existing range of policies. Capital transfer tax cannot be avoided but its effects can be alleviated or mitigated through the wise use of insurance and it is equally possible to use it as a method of creating capital for another without the burden of this tax.

Capital transfer tax, whether on a lifetime gift or at death, will have to be paid when different rates apply either by the donor or, by election, by the donee. To some extent the amount of tax payable and the date at which it will become due (as far as planned lifetime gifts are concerned) can be predicted, but on balance a more flexible system is better.

The great value of life assurance is that it can provide the wherewithal to meet the tax—without having to make an enforced sale of shares or other assets, or

only a limited amount of assets could be willed to a wife free of tax, all gifts between spouses are tax-exempt under capital transfer tax.

It is under these circumstances that last-survivor policies come into their own. For, if a husband leaves everything to his wife, she will be no tax payable at his death—but very much more than might otherwise have been the case at the death of the surviving spouse.

The object of this kind of policy is that the proceeds do not become payable until the second death occurs. If the policy is written under trust, it will become payable on proof of death—instead of waiting for probate—and can be immediately used to meet the tax bill. There are variations in the method of payment for last-survivor assurance. A fixed premium can be paid until the policy becomes a claim, that is at the second death. Another choice is for the fixed premium rate to be payable either until the death of the second spouse or until a certain period, such as 10 years, after the death of the first spouse, has elapsed—which ever occurs first. The third option is for the premium to be reduced after the first death.

Finally, life assurance can be used in a capital transfer tax context as a means of building up capital for children. Outright gifts will be caught in the tax net. But the indirect method of using life assurance, paid for out of normal expenditure, provides a tax-efficient method of creating capital for children and also leaves the £1,000 a year exemption for gifts tax free for some other purpose.

Under estate duty where

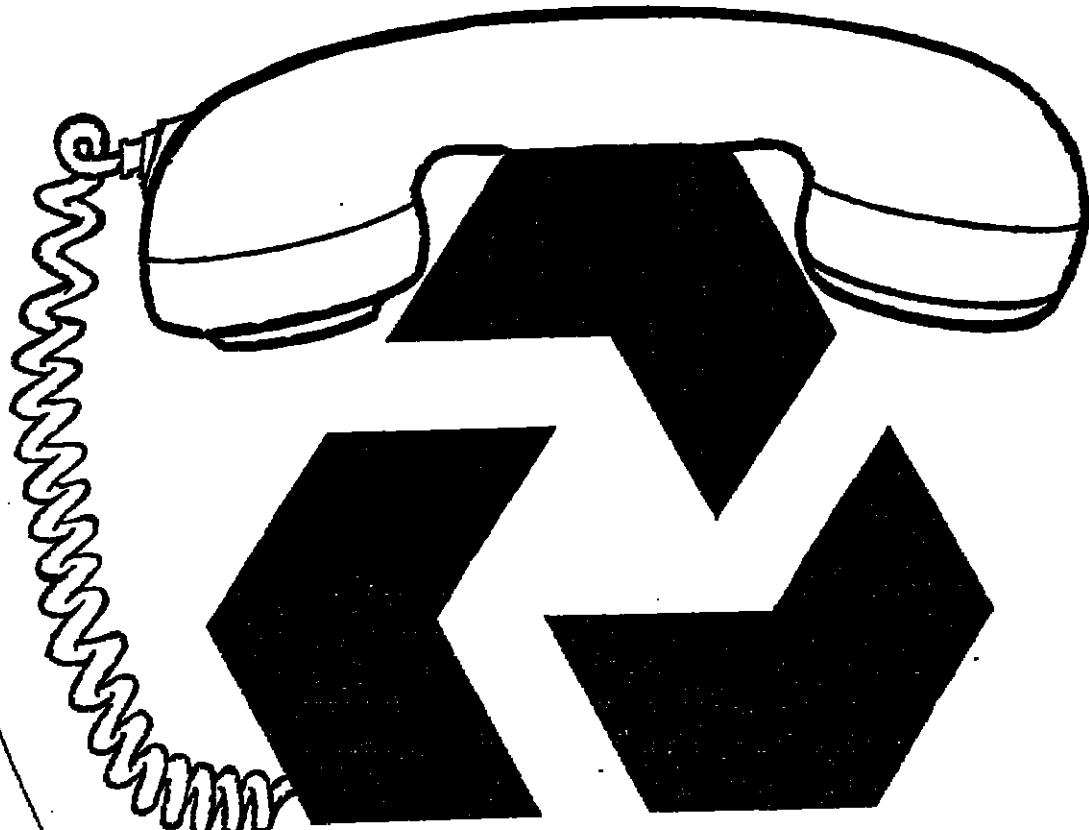
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912 14th April, A.B. Symons on the Titanic

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ROYAL TRUST



The urge to preserve inheritance is never stronger than when directly under attack. Oliver Stanley identifies some protective measures for four kinds of entrepreneurs

Paterfamilias

A central dilemma of the younger family man is how best to arrange the devolution of his property on his death. Under CTT he can leave all his net estate to his widow without any liability, and this may seem a tempting course. By doing so, he will be securing his widow's future and postponing the awkward question of how the cake should be cut to care for his children.

However, he will also be falling into an unpleasant tax trap. By deferring all CTT until his wife's death, he will be failing to use up the exemptions and reduced rates of charge, which would have been allotted in calculating tax on his own death. Thus, when his estate ultimately passes to his children it may bear more tax than if he would have done had there been some transfer of value on his own death.

Some compromise will be needed to solve the problem. He will be wise to draft his will so as to leave sufficient direct legacies to his children—and others—to minimise the tax but to maximise his widow's sense of personal security. That will involve a study of the values involved and the different consequences of various courses of action.

Seat on the board

Later in life, a different pressure imposes itself. By the age of 60, with retirement approaching, there will be clearer indication of future CTT liabilities and the resources available to meet them. The preferential treatment of lifetime gifts—up to a total of £300,000—will begin to seem valuable. By this time, children may well have married and have families of their own, and need financial help with school fees and house purchases. It will seem beneficial to make gifts to children and grandchildren, so as to secure the lifetime rate relief. Up to a total of £100,000, the tax on lifetime gifts is half that on death. After that limit, the relief

In a small way

For shareholders in private companies, partnerships and other small business owners, CTT will create difficulties, primarily because of the traditional inability of this whole sector ever to find cash to pay tax. Retail shopkeepers, family businesses, and other small businesses do not have ready access to capital, and in the current climate, most are critically not

themselves, so that when the £300,000 point is reached, the lifetime rate and the death rate are equal.

Suppose one is worth, say, £80,000. Then by giving away three-quarters of that sum to one's children and surviving for the necessary three years, one can reduce the CTT payable from £19,250 to £13,625—a saving of one-third.

But is that a reasonable step? After all, 15 years of retirement may lie ahead, and with inflation rampant, it hardly makes sense to strip oneself for tax reasons. Again, some compromise will be needed to donate amounts relevant to the requirements of the recipient, but which leave a comfortable reserve both in terms of spendable income and capital reserves.

Nor do individual entrepreneurs tend to have capital resources apart from what is locked into their businesses. Few have been able to build up diversified portfolios of marketable securities, and most corner-store grocers naturally have a strong bias towards businesses representing a better home for any spare cash than, say, a bundle of shares in Sainsbury or Tesco.

Thus the untimely death of a partner or controlling

Man of property

It is the landowner who appears to be facing unprecedented fiscal pressures. His sense of siege is the product of various factors. Under CTT agricultural landowners have lost the 45 per cent rate rebate for agricultural property they enjoyed under estate duty, and the replacement relief is more restricted both in scope and scale.

There are supplementary pressures flowing from the economic structure of agriculture in Britain. Large amounts of capital are tied up in farmland, earning too low a rate of return to plough back for long-term growth, or to permit more than modest amounts of borrowing and—above all—to

allow the setting up of a sinking fund to pay tax when a farm passes from one generation to the next.

Owner-occupiers can at least hope to secure the new relief. It reduces the value of property transferred from the ordinary price which property might be expected to fetch when sold in the open market to a valuation calculated by multiplying an assumed rental value by 20.

How this relief will work and what benefits it will confer are not easy to judge at present. Only those who derive not less than 75 per cent of their earnings from farming, or who can show they are wholly or mainly engaged in agriculture, may claim. The burden of proof will fall on the claimant.

shareholder can create a tax bill on a scale which undermines the future of the enterprise. Even the introduction of a new partner in a professional firm and the transfer to him of a share of goodwill may be regarded as a chargeable transfer.

These problems will not readily be solved, but already the trend is apparent: ownership will need to be more widely spread among members of families—fragmented into units whose value is small enough to make contin-

gent tax liabilities tolerable. How does one get into this new posture? One solution may be to secure that new business developments are launched by new companies, whose ownership is vested in the hands of younger members of families.

Similarly, separate companies to carry on ancillary or unrelated operations will become advantageous. Undoubtedly, this restructuring process will be a laborious one, still incomplete if CTT is repealed.

Trustees' dilemma over time and money

The role of trustee has always been a burdensome one in English law. The rights, obligations and duties of trustees were first settled by the Courts of Chancery during the eighteenth century, when any landowner could be called on to undertake the administration of property belonging to relatives, friends, or neighbours with no promise of reward—only the threat of personal liability if things turned out badly for the beneficiaries.

These days it is not easy to find individuals willing to perform so onerous a task. Hence the rise of the corporate trustee, with explicit power to charge for his services, and the capacity to employ teams of specialists to tackle the legal, investment and fiscal problems involved.

CTT is not going to make the life of a trustee any easier. Mr Healey set about framing the new law on the basis that all discretionary trusts represented tax avoidance devices which deserved to be crushed out

of existence. He proposed that CTT should be paid, not only whenever property was put into discretionary trusts, but whenever it came out of trust, but simply for the privilege of holding property in trust at all.

There is a basic division into three classes: those with an interest in possession—for example, a right to enjoy income from the trust property during life; those without such an interest—in particular discretionary trusts; and children's accumulating trusts, singled out for special privileges.

CTT is payable, simply on the conversion of the terms of a trust, to remove it from one class and transfer it into another. The trustees can become chargeable upon events (or non-events) which would not have created liability if the same property had been held by individuals.

Such is the pressure exerted that many trustees now find themselves faced with a major dilemma. Should they sue the beneficiaries forthwith

bring the trust to an end, by exercising powers to distribute the trust property to the beneficiaries? Should they retain the capital but appoint the income in the life interests? Should they create accumulations and maintenance trusts? These are steps which start a bill for CTT. On the other hand, the prospect of "deemed" distributions of the same property at intervals is an unpleasant one.

Moreover, the Chancellor introduced legislation during the committee stage of the Bill to help to tip the balance in favour of breaking trusts at any early date—the sooner the cheaper. Up to March 31, 1976, the tax on distributions qualifies for a 90 per cent discount; up to March 31, 1977, an 87½ per cent discount; to March 31, 1978, there is an 85 per cent discount; and from April 1, 1978, the tax on distributions is the same as the tax on the property itself.

In effect, trustees have been given five years in which to decide whether to abrogate their responsibilities. The longer they take to make their decision, the more it will cost the beneficiaries in CTT.

Undoubtedly, this is a decision which will need to be

made in the light of the needs of the particular beneficiaries. If a beneficiary is already well provided for, and not in the first flush of youth, the capital he receives on the break up of the trust may increase the liability to tax on his death in the not so distant future.

On the other hand, it may be possible for trustees to exercise powers which will put funds into the hands of a younger generation. In particular, it may be possible for those holding reversionary interests under settlements—that is, interests contingent upon the death of the present life tenant—to disclaim those interests in favour of their children, before the trust is broken up.

The effect would be to skip a generation, so that the trust property would pass from, say, grandparent to grandchild, so escaping CTT on the death of the intermediate generation.

This is but one example of the problems which will need attention. If the trustees decide to keep themselves in being, and face up to the periodic charge to tax, they will be obliged to consider how that tax is to be financed when the time comes. Some

form of term-assurance may be the solution here. Certainly investment policy will need reappraisal in the light of the new situation.

The whole position is made even more complex by the prospect of the wealth tax, which Mr Healey has in store for us. If trusts receive relatively favourable treatment under a wealth tax, it might be worth while accepting the burdens which CTT implies.

The best course on balance seems to be to do nothing until the end of 1979. By that date little transitional relief will be lost but the form of the wealth tax will be known. Moreover, the next general election cannot fall later than October, 1979, and the Conservative Party has given undertakings to repeal CTT if elected. Although such undertakings are not always kept, modifications may be made which restore the value of discretionary trusts.

Hindsight may prove that heavy action to break new was ill-considered and contrary to the real interests of beneficiaries. Such a decision should be a positive one after securing the best advice on all the alternatives.

O.S.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Practical help with Capital Transfer Tax.

Farms get limited concessions

by Ronald M. Wilson

Successive British governments have acknowledged that the special problems of agriculture and forestry, and our need to develop them, require them to be given special treatment. An effective method of encouraging investment has been the granting of tax concessions under the former estate duty rules.

Capital transfer tax contains no such simple or far-reaching concessions. The "concessions" to agriculture are so limited to a steeply progressive tax scale which will benefit only fairly small farms, together with a valuation formula designed to benefit a narrowly defined class of full-time working farmers whose farms are less than 1,000 acres in size and £250,000 in value.

When a farmer or landowner nears retirement age he will be faced by a huge tax bill if he wishes to transfer a farm to his son. Unless it is fairly small and he has been working it himself full time, it is hard to see how most farm owners will be able to meet such CTT demands without running down their capital investment in the farm or even selling a part of the farm itself.

Running down capital investment, perhaps by allowing buildings and plant to fall into disrepair, is scarcely a recipe for increased production. Nor will enforced sales of farmland help, for this must inevitably lead to fragmentation. Smaller farms, which are treated quite generously under the CTT rules, will become more desirable than large ones.

There is no doubt that, where farms are concerned, size and productivity have become linked. Governments have recognized this and have used grants to encourage farm amalgamations. If large farms are now to face greater proportional tax liability than smaller ones, CTT will have reversed several years' efforts by successive governments.

There are other related points. Continued inflation will mean that more and more farms of progressively smaller size, go into the higher tax brackets. Hence more farms will be exposed to the dangers of diminished investment or enforced sale.

The Government's refusal to extend any special relief to farm-owners who are not full-time working farmers may well prove to have equally damaging effects to

those caused by the size-limit already mentioned.

Tenant farmers to a great extent depend on the landowner as a source of capital for investment. The arguments for encouraging increased capital investment in farming thus apply as much to the farm-owner who does not work the farm himself as they do to the full-time working farmer.

We must examine, then, what will be the effect of CTT on the farm-owner, who will enjoy no tax concession, however small or large his farm. Faced with the threat of a big tax liability, the farm-owner has but two choices. He can take the farm in hand and farm it himself, thus qualifying (if his farm is not too large) for the tax concessions of a full-time working farmer. Or he can pursue a course of running down his capital investment in the farm or selling part of it, similar to that which the larger full-time working farmer must pursue. If he chooses the first course, one less farm is available to a tenant farmer. If he chooses the second, productivity is bound to fall.

The guillotine was used at the report stage of the Finance Act. One result is that the valuation of farmland which is both difficult to apply and dependent for its effectiveness on a "multiplier" which may not in practice exist in the statutory level of value at all.

This is all the more curious in view of the fact that the Government apparently accepted the need for large-scale amendment of the original CTT legislation. Not the least problem was forestry, which originally was given no relief at all. Trees, which must necessarily be transferred from one generation to another before they mature, would have been taxed in full at each transfer of ownership.

The Government therefore moved its own radical amendments and introduced special woodland reliefs under three conditions. The main relief concedes the substantial point that it is only makes sense to tax the same crop once. Provided that woodlands are inherited on death, no tax on the trees is payable until they are disposed of and then on net proceeds after deduction of disposal expenses.

However, tax is to be based on the value of trees at the time of sale rather than at the time of transfer. This means that the longer the period between the time of transfer and the time of sale, the greater the tax; surely a recipe for premature felling and consequent loss of production.

The author is chairman, Land Agency and Agriculture Division, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

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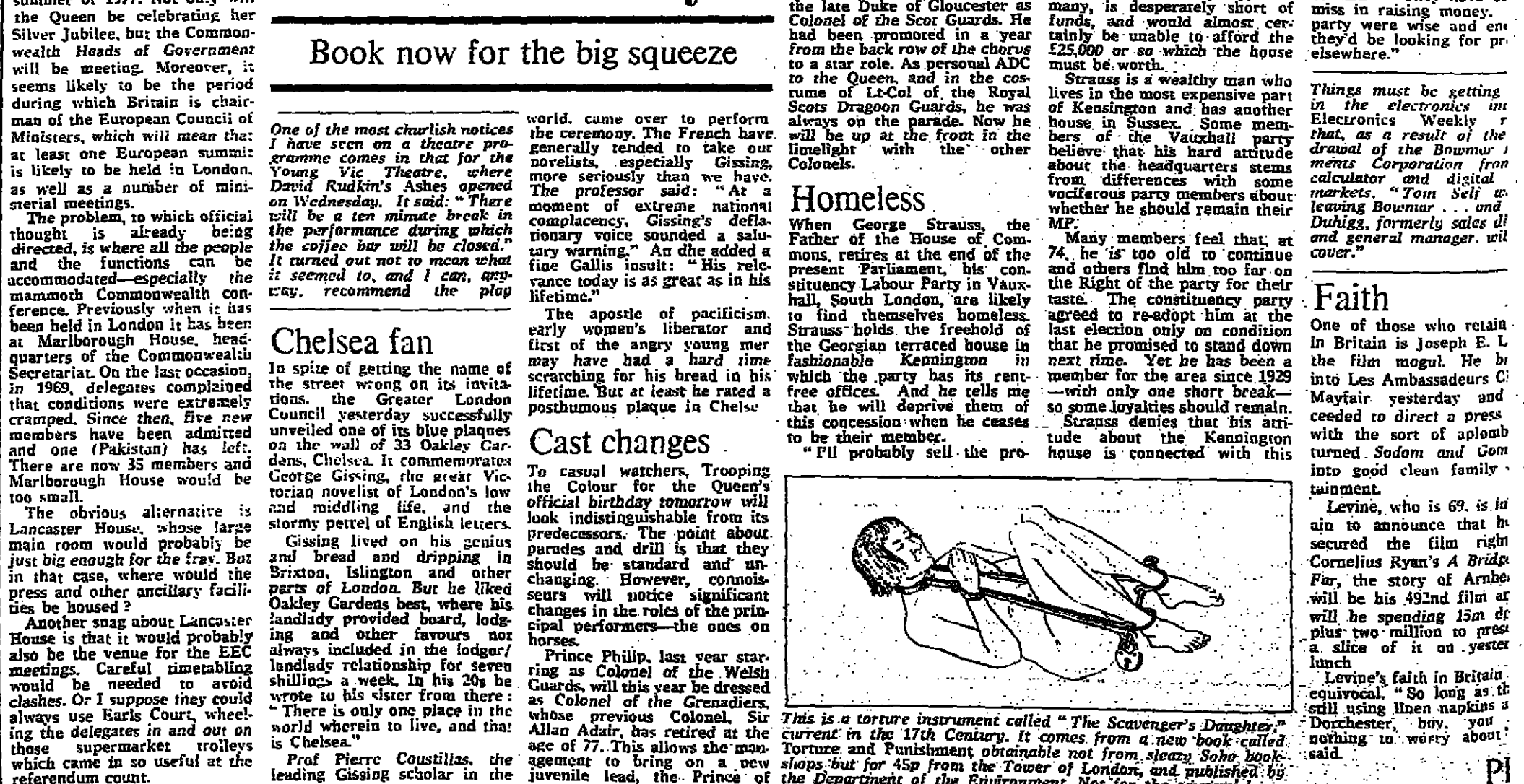


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WHAT MR HEALEY HAS TO DO

rapid fall in the value of pound in the past few days is a serious symptom of the inflationary crisis of the country. There is nothing more to be done to strengthen foreign confidence in sterling which does not need to be done anyway. Yet the fall in the value of the pound represents a real value put on our currency by those who are free either to buy it or to sell it. At the least, it is a very useful indicator of success or failure in meeting the crisis of inflation.

There is also real danger if fall in sterling should get out of control. Britain is committed to a policy of depending on foreign borrowing in order to keep its balance of payments in order; that is likely to continue until we start to get substantial revenue from North Sea. Obviously people will not put money into sterling if they are likely to lose by doing so, or if they have recent experience of such a loss. To be able to borrow we must be creditworthy; to be creditworthy we must limit inflation.

fall in the value of sterling has the effect of turning terms of trade against us making it more expensive to get the goods we need. As prices rise that tends to add to the impetus of inflation as people try to recover purchasing power that they have lost. Therefore we should not allow a fall in sterling as the cause of domestic inflation but other symptoms of failure, undesirable and indeed dangerous in itself.

he issue, then, is not that of inflation but that of inflation control—and the objective ought to be to end it even if by gradually means—we no longer have to worry about the external value of our currency. If we make our money go abroad, confidence will flow towards a policy of stable purchasing power.

It comes back therefore to question of how to end inflation. We have taken the view that monetary and fiscal policies on the one hand and incomes

policy on the other are necessary, or at any rate that they are necessary in a country with as large a public sector as Britain. Monetary and fiscal policy is, however, the essential element. If the money supply is increasing too fast, inflation will inevitably follow. If in the market place there are five hats and £10 with which to buy them, hats will cost £2 each; if in the market place there are five hats and £20 with which to buy them, hats will be £4 each. That is the simple principle which determines the purchasing power of money.

In order to achieve a stable money supply, or a money supply which is gradually being brought back to stability, it is necessary to avoid excessive credit creation; it is also necessary to have a budget deficit that is no larger than can be met by genuine borrowing. At the present moment neither the creation of credit nor the desire to use it are such that the danger of a stable money supply comes from a credit expansion. On the contrary, the situation of the British economy is so bad that people are extremely reluctant to use the credit which is available to them and companies are very reluctant to invest. The confidence on which investment is based is not likely to be restored until there are clear signs that inflation has been conquered.

The danger comes from the size of the budget deficit. We do not yet know whether the forecast deficit will be contained inside the extraordinary level of £3,000m which the Chancellor provided for in April. It may well be that public spending is already outstripping revenue at a rate even higher than that, but it is not yet certain.

What is certain is that the greatest contribution that could be made to bringing inflation under control would be a reduction in government spending, and in particular a proper limit to the increase in all those salaries and wages which are paid out of the public revenue. It is the inflation of money in the public sector which has done most to produce this colossal budget deficit.

This is where the second part of policy has to be introduced. There can be no hope of bringing public expenditure under control

unless public expenditure on pay is brought under control. That requires that every government should have a policy on incomes, at least where they themselves have to determine what the incomes are to be. At present that control is completely missing.

The necessity for an incomes policy, therefore, emerges from the need to control public pay settlements. In the private sector it is possible to control pay settlements by monetary means; if the money is not available, the private industry has no way of creating it, and can only pay wages if it can sell its goods. In the public sector general economic conditions can be overridden provided that the government can be persuaded or forced to add to the budget deficit.

An incomes policy is also important in that it will reduce the amount of unemployment which would be caused by stabilization of the money supply. However imperfectly it may work there is a market for labour. If there are five men in the market who charge fifty pounds for their labour, and there is £250 in the market available to pay them, then all five men will be employed. If there are five men in the market and they charge £125 for their labour but there is still only £250 available to pay them then two of the men will be employed, and three of them will be unemployed.

If trade union power succeeds in forcing up wages at a time when the money supply is not being increased then it follows as a logical consequence that unemployment will rise. The total amount paid in wages will be constant but it will be divided in larger shares between fewer men.

Mr Healey is now preparing further measures to fight inflation which he hopes will cut the inflation rate by half in the next year. These measures must be based on fiscal and monetary policy. In particular he will have to cut government spending very severely. They must include an effective policy on incomes, to give support to the fiscal and monetary policy. Perhaps this administration will not be strong enough, or the Labour Party united enough, to carry this through. But so long as he is doing what is right, the Chancellor must be supported.

DAMAGING CASE FOR MRS GANDHI

Indira Gandhi has been Prime Minister for more than nine years. When she came over her position in the press Party was weak—she admitted a stopgap choice for her position in the country little to rest on but her reputation. Since then she has made herself a national leader while developing exceptional skills as a party manager; the neglect, some would say, her responsibilities as a national leader. In the last election in 1971, she led the press Party back to power victory such as it had not since her father's day.

In this background her conduct by the Allahabad High Court on charges of corrupt election practices must seem damaging to her, to the Congress Party possibly disturbing to Indian life.

should, however, be made that the word corruption led to the electoral practice with which Mrs Gandhi has charged does not at all to financial matters. Corruption in this commonly accepted sense has not been alleged in recent past against more than one Congress minister but against Mrs Gandhi herself. The charges which she was convicted of were brought after very considerable delay by her opponent in the 1971 election. With legal delays the hearing began only this year and Mrs

Gandhi appeared in court to answer questions and explain her actions. From the information available her actions would not have been adjudged criminal in English law; at most a civil servant who was shown to have behaved improperly might have been reprimanded.

Such issues are natural to any democratic leader in fighting an election in her own constituency. How far may government servants, albeit privately appointed, be involved in any way in the electoral process? What actions may the police take in determining the security of a public meeting addressed by the Prime Minister? If the meeting happens to be her own electoral meeting? For the moment there is to be a stay of execution, so Mrs Gandhi will not yet find herself disqualified, or banned from public office for a period of six years which is an additional penalty. The matter now goes to the Supreme Court.

The case will nevertheless concentrate attention on the charges now being made against Congress rule. Over the past four years the parties in opposition to Congress have been even less effective than ever before. It is only from outside Parliament that Mr P. Narayan has been able to lead a frontal attack. As the one influential survivor in Indian political life from the days of independence Mr Narayan has concentrated on the moral issue of corruption in

Congress. A campaign that began with the troubles in Bihar state early last year has since spread and a series of mass rallies has attracted considerable support.

Such demonstrations alone might do little to unsettle Congress. Mr Narayan no longer commands any effective political organization. But the rallies have worried Congress and there has been dispute in the party over how the movement should best be handled. Many believe that an outright confrontation with Mr Narayan would be damaging and that some of his charges must be allowed. Mr Dharma, the housing minister who was dismissed earlier this year, has alleged that it is Mrs Gandhi's communist allies who are opposed to any concessions to Mr Narayan. Perhaps they see his mass movement as having a wider appeal than communism ever contrives in India these days, though Mr Narayan's movement has hitherto only been significant in northern India.

Had Mrs Gandhi's case come before the courts a year or more ago instead of being so long delayed it would have sparked much less political interest. Now it can only add to growing political tension. The next general election could be held at the end of this year and must be held by February of next year. There is no candidate visible who is likely to challenge Mrs Gandhi, still less a political movement that looks like displacing Congress.

Quite apart from the disappointment caused to the average playgoer, this is particularly damaging to younger generations whose tastes are being informed and, one hopes, enlarged. We have, alas, no theatrical equivalent to the Promenade concerts where, each year, students can become acquainted with the standard repertoire, as well as new works.

We have an obligation, as a community, to make available the more significant contributions to human thought and feeling embodied in the drama. The alternative is to allow younger generations to be swamped in a tide of profitable pop and pap.

The government, of whatever colour, should be encouraged to remove those tax burdens which inhibit adventurous policies by commercial management and to provide the Minister for the Arts with sufficient funds to support companies large and small, regional and metropolitan, which have proved and are proving their artistic worth. Certainly at no time should the minister be placed in the invidious position of having to choose between one company and another for purely financial reasons. The problem is one of civilisation. Manners now will cause ignorance and mental poverty later on.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN-NORMAN BENEDETTI,
Principal,
The Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama,
Lancaster Park,
Sidcup,
Kent.
June 6.

Community Land Bill

From Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for Isle of Wight, and Mr N. Budgen, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton, South West

Sir, We are two MPs, one Liberal and one Tory, who are members of the Standing Committee on the Community Land Bill.

This Bill was given its Second Reading as late in the session as April 29, 1975. On Tuesday, June 10, the Committee sat first between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm. We sat on the same day at 4.30 pm. This sitting continued with only short interruptions until 1.00 am on Wednesday, June 11. By this time the Committee had been considering the most crucial clause of the Bill, Clause 3, for about 10 hours. Between 1.00 am and about 2.00 am the Tory and Liberal opposition argued that the Committee should consider then and not go on to consider further amendments including those exempting land owned by charities and churches and Clause 4 concerning owner occupiers from the Bill. The Committee was too tired to give proper consideration to those very important matters vitally affecting many of our fellow citizens and millions of pounds. But the Conservative majority on the Committee forced the members to sit on until 1.00 pm on June 11.

We regard these proceedings as a grave abuse of our duty to consider the details of this matter. Justice in this Bill, it was by then the public could not be expected to attend at this time of night or morning.

This injustice arose because the Labour Group on this Committee decided that the prime duty was to support its party and not to criticize the executive. We are ashamed to have been a part of this charade.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROSS,
NICK BUDGEN,
House of Commons,
June 12.

A doctor's conscience

From Professor P. J. Huntingford

Sir, Ronald Butt (January 30) rightly deplored the fact that the logical appointments to the National Health Service had suffered because of exercise of their conscience in respect of abortion had restricted the opportunities open to them. If it were the Government's intention of the Department of Health and Social Security to exert still more pressure on reluctant doctors to carry out abortion, like Dr Roche (June 7) but for very different reasons, I condemn it.

I dislike pressures to conform either in practice or in more issues. I am concerned that some people have already been constrained to suppress conscientious objections that they have, but which may not be supported by such strong beliefs as those held for instance by Catholic Suppressed emotional conflicts are all too easily transferred to others.

It would be better if more and not fewer doctors and nurses could refuse to take part in practices of which they disapproved without fear of victimization. Warfare with unwanted pregnancies would then be able to make a real choice assisted by those without prejudice and they would suffer less by not having the emotional conflicts of others imposed on them. The DHSS should be promoting the more widespread provision of abortion under the NHS early in pregnancy on an outpatient basis, when the skills of highly trained gynaecologists, hospital admission and general anaesthesia are all used. The DHSS should be reducing the already low mortality and morbidity (both physical and emotional) associated with early abortion still further.

If the directive from the DHSS referred to by Dr Roche has been issued, I believe that the DHSS will retract and will not continue the issues surrounding abortion still more than James White's Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. HUNTINGFORD,
The London Hospital Medical College,
Turner Street, E1.

Ulster convention

From Mr Charles Kinahan

Sir, When, as happened in the recent referendum campaign in Northern Ireland, Orangemen, SDLP members and official Unionists all work for the same cause, when the Belfast Newsletter and the Irish News both recommend a Yes vote, when the Alliance Party, the UPNI and the Labour Party of Northern Ireland (plus many who are politically unaligned) combine together to fight for a common goal, is there not real cause to hope that out of this convention may yet come a formula which the great majority of people can accept as fair and reasonable?

There is hope yet!

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES KINAHAN, Alliance Party, South Antrim,
Northern Ireland Convention,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont,
Belfast.
June 10.

Nuclear armaments

From Dr Howard Spier

Sir, Your correspondent, Miss Sybil Cookson (June 7), attended the 60th Annual Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in Geneva recently, and returned home disappointed and frustrated.

In apparent despair she cries: "The masses would support a protest against the spending of huge sums (on nuclear armaments) in this matter."

To which my response is: Would they? And if perchance they would, would the "masses" of Moscow, Peking or, for that matter, Timbuctoo, support such a "protest" in equal measure?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD SPIER,
60 The Ridgeway, NW11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government's role: industrial effort

From the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, The important point about the change in the leadership of the Department of Industry is neither personal nor political. It is that a new opportunity has been provided for this Department to do its real job, which the Labour Party defined in 1964 as being "to guide and stimulate a major national effort to bring advanced technology and new processes into industry" and which Mr Wilson further envisaged as that of "increasing productivity and efficiency, particularly within those industries in urgent need of restructuring or modernization."

This is a non-political task which desperately needs doing, in the interests of the whole nation. There was a clear, if brief, understanding of this and of how to set about it in the period around 1969. The Ministry of Technology (now the Department of Industry), in alliance with the Industrial Reorganization Corporation, then evolved a policy that struck just the right relationship with industry and which, in consequence, deservedly enjoyed a high degree of confidence from those with front-line experience of and responsibility for making, selling and exporting goods. It will be to everyone's benefit if the Department can now revive this policy.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COTTELL,
Jesus College,
Cambridge.
June 11.

Country before party

From Mr Derek Prag

Sir, As someone who did the initial ground work for the all-party campaign in London (where we ended up with 36 branches of Britain in Europe) and was active throughout the campaign, may I put in a practical word about the possibilities of cooperation after the referendum?

First, we have to see whether we can keep in being the organizations which were set up and which worked with tremendous enthusiasm. They consisted very largely of young people—in London at any rate—most of whom were both able and active. Some of these groups, including my own local group, Leichham in Europe, have already decided to remain in existence. The London Europe Society is contacting all the London groups, urging them to take similar decisions.

The second problem is to see how these groups can play a useful part in our political system. Obviously they must play no part at all. As a Conservative I was saddened by his letter (June 10). Its inescapable general implication was that we should now go back, unchanged by the referendum, to our old system of political inadequacies and economic decay summarized so well in your leader of June 7.

Of course there are legitimate party differences—many of them genuine ideological differences—between Conservatives and doubtless Liberals and Socialists as well considered to be of great importance. No one expects us to abandon our fundamental beliefs, or the party system. For example, no one could get me, as a Conservative, to change my view of the superiority of incentive and choice over egalitarianism, individualism over collectivism, and enterprise over State control in industry and commerce. But these views are tempered by the reality of our mixed economy, our common belief in social justice, and the inevitable control of the State over our economic weather.

Above all, so many of us, in all

majority, this could be reversed. Should some of our papers or coalition of "National Unity" form a Government, we could naturally revert to the confusion of mono broadcasts.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR ROSS,
Flat 1,
42 Manse Road, N16,
June 11.

The Commons on radio

From Mr James Bowker

Sir, In the 1940s and 1950s I spent many hours in the public gallery and precincts of the House of Commons because I was then a parliamentary candidate and a member of the Bar closely interested in the way my country was governed and its laws were made.

I have just listened to the first broadcast from the House and could scarcely believe my ears. This broadcast was an affront to the British electorate, destructive of any lingering (faint) respect it might have had for parliamentary procedure.

Tonight I visited several places where ordinary, humble, decent citizens forsother. In all of them I was assailed by a storm of vociferous contempt, and even shock, at what they had heard of "Unruly... switched off in disgust," "so that's what they're paid for," "now we know why..." were typical of some of the remarks made in real anger, almost frightening in its intensity.

So far from members of Parliament doubting whether the public should be privileged to hear them at work, I would surmise that their paymasters are not prepared to tolerate any further insults to their intelligence and encroachments on their listening time.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOWKER,
Carminow Farm,
East Hill Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.
June 9.

From Mr Alistair Ross

Sir, Mr Campion (June 11) suggests that the public will be confused at the rowdiness of members in the radio broadcasts of Parliament. Surely what the public would prefer is not more decorous behaviour from MPs, but the ability to distinguish which side is responsible for the apparently bovine interjections.

This could easily be achieved by stereophonic broadcasts, so that the interests of further political clarity, the broadcasting authorities could arrange that sounds from the benches to the right of the Speaker's chair came through our left-hand units at home, and vice versa. When and if a general election resulted in a Conservative

Fair votes for the British

From Mr Ralph Blumencranz

Sir, The unfairness of our electoral system to parties like the Liberals is and has always been beyond dispute; but when I read the argument that it also works against the centre of the political spectrum and unduly strengthens the extremists in the Labour and Conservative parties, I recall that in the days of Buskellism our system was regularly extolled on the grounds that (a) it forced both parties to moderate their policies and (b) that therefore extremist groups with minority support were happily in the same hopeless position as were the unfortunate Liberals.

So on the Continent you had your communists and fascists in parliament, but in the British Parliament these groups had no chance. I suspect that what prevents Buskellism today is not our electoral system but the fact that the Labour Party today depends on the trade unions more than on the electorate; that more unions are today under militant control; and that the electoral practices in some trade unions contribute to that result by favouring militant minorities.

It is this extraparlimentary element, not our electoral system, which puts the centrists in the Labour Party into such a difficult position and which gives Mr Benn and his friends, in my view, far too much to give comparable weight to Selsdon Man, and the symmetry you imply in your leader today between Selsdon Man and Tony Benn strikes me as a purely formal one.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENCRAZ,
11 The Lees,
Malvern,
Worcestershire.
June 6.

Seeing the White Horse

From the Director of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings

Sir, I can assure your readers, who have shared your interest in the White Horse, that the danger of damage from visitors, to which Sir John Bejeman and others drew attention on June 6, has been receiving attention from the department for some years. The protective fence (Sir John referred to its removal) was erected by this department in 1973 because of concern about wear and tear on the edges of the Horse.

Unfortunately, since the slope is so steep some of the public used the angle iron stanchions to pull themselves up it and damaged part of the fence. To their credit, the majority of visitors still walked round the outside of the fence, but in so doing they wore the turf, and a competing outline appeared around the Horse. The fence was removed for these reasons.

Meanwhile, the owners of the land (on which the monument in our guardianship is situated) put forward to the county council a scheme including a new car park farther away from the Horse than the present one, and a path leading close to a vantage point with an excellent view of the Horse. Such an arrangement would considerably reduce the number of visitors reaching the Horse itself. But, for traffic reasons, the Oxfordshire County Council refused permission for the owners' scheme. We have expressed our willingness to cooperate with everyone concerned to see if the difficulties can be overcome.

We are also examining other possible solutions, ranging from the discreet removal of vulnerable areas of the Horse with man-made materials, to the enclosure of a much larger area than before within a fence high and strong, enough to give protection—but this would only be as a last resort.

An effective fence would be costly; it could mar the landscape; and would inevitably be resented by some.

We will seek a solution and are certainly not indifferent to the safety of the monument placed in our guardianship.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
V. D. LIPMAN,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1.
June 12.

Opening of Suez Canal

From Mr A. H. Jones

Sir, In 1967 when the Suez Canal was closed, the oil companies increased their prices on the basis of their having to make the trip around the Cape.

May we now assume, since the Canal is open again, that these increases will be removed?

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. W. JONES,
Perran House,
Hook Heath,
Woking, Surrey.
June 6.

Holidays in Portugal

From Mr Michael R. W. Davison

Sir, The Portuguese Revolution is now in its second year, democracy is on the increase but tourism is on the decrease. Why?

The revolution here is not like its counterparts in Russia, Cuba, Poland, etc. where streets were awash with blood.

The same sun, beaches and souvenirs are in as fast as times. The communists have come out of hiding and graffiti are everywhere but there is no reason why the average tourist can't have an excellent, cheap holiday.

I have lived here "before and after" the revolution of April, 1974. The people are still as kind and helpful as they ever were, perhaps now even more so.

So please don't let it be said that the British are afraid of visiting a democratic country.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. W. DAVISON,
PO 44,
Carcavelos,
Portugal.
June 7.

Inflation and climate

Dr G. C. L. Bertram

David Green's letter (June 6) stresses that real wages are changing with time. Indeed a short time especially when the generations of kind at only three or four century.

of our present misfortunes is to stress upon the physical level in a constant state of change in both our environment and ourselves. Such beliefs are false, and of biological education demonstrates. In fact, our environment, our physical and our living environment all in a state of continuous change, though as yet we are indeed accurate forecasting.

greater our human population is more vulnerable we are to climatic change. So far human population has increased in the age of 90 (only 25 years it will have quadrupled, lies the danger, climate and with foodstuffs being so linked.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. L. BERTRAM,
St. College,
Oxford.

In the theatre

From Jean-Norman Benedetti

Trevor Nunn has pleaded eloquently in another journal connected with your own for

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Ministers and industrialists examining BI scheme for national recovery

By Corina
d'Editor
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in a series of docu-
ment being examined by
the Minister, Cabinet
secretary, and the TUC,
the government calls
economic performance
me. say that businessmen,
union leaders, and
must urgently get
to prepare a national
programme, which
is presented to Parlia-
ment by both industry
through a National
Economic
Council Office.
released by the Con-
n of British Industry
ve of today's gathering
trial and economic
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will be reviewed ahead
week's vital Nedd
meeting, to be attended
Wilson—throw light on
business community
putting new pressures
Government to take
initiative in the struggle
inflation.
BI leaders, with the
of their industry-wide
members, claim that
putting forward a new
to deal with the main
problems of the
but one that does not
with certain planning
s recently agreed
with the TUC and now
say an economic pro-
gramme should
counter—inflation.
The CBI has already
an annual target
arrangements for
wages and prices, and
if payments objectives
also cover invest-
ment manpower issues. One
recommendation is that

the National Enterprise Board
be plugged into the Nedd
machine, so that Little Neddies
for each main industry can bid
for state assistance within
agreed guidelines.
It is envisaged that the Gov-
ernment, the TUC, and the CBI
should negotiate the detailed
programme and then submit this
to the main Neddies, which
would then take it to
Parliament for approval.
For its part, the CBI concedes
there is a role for the state-
financed NEB and proposes
some compromise with the
Government and the unions on
when and how public funds
should be used in the private
sector.
It suggests that companies re-
ceiving aid, according to criteria
outlined in its documents, should
sign three-year deals with their
unions and Whitehall depart-
ments. This would avoid open-
ended commitments by tax-
payers and place new obligations
on employees as well as manage-
ments receiving state funds.
Industrialists are also ready
to introduce what are described
as Company Information Policies,
with managements consult-
ing their workers on how their
participation can be improved.
Boards of directors would also
continuously monitor their policies
on disclosure.
All these ideas, and others
covered by the documents,
quietly circulated within Govern-
ment and union circles, are
being pressed against the back-
ground of the Prime Minister's
promised review of policy at the
report stage of the Industry Bill.
It was Mr Wilson who said the
Government was ready to con-
sider new means of economic
planning, repeating this at the
Neddies' meeting, and saying
with a public promise to look
afresh at the Industry Bill after
its committee stage.
CBI blueprint, page 21

Uranium producers' institute inaugurated

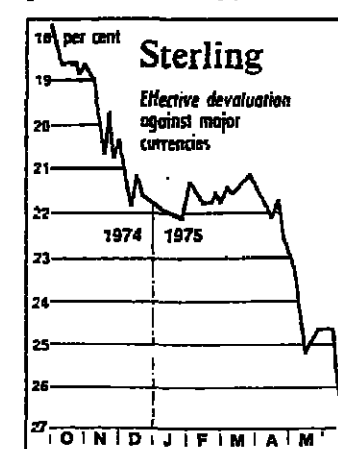
By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent
Fourteen leading producers
of uranium and two government
agencies have grouped together
to form the Uranium Institute,
which was inaugurated in Lon-
don yesterday. Its main func-
tions are to present the views
of its members on specific
issues and to build up informa-
tion on the likely future pat-
tern of supply and demand for
natural uranium.
Producers in Australia,
Canada, France, South Africa,
and the United Kingdom (Rio
Tinto-Zinc) are the founder
members of the institute, which
will also admit uranium con-
sumers as associate members.
Secretary-general of the insti-
tute is Mr Terence Price, a
former head of reactor develop-
ment at Harwell.
Mr John Kosciuk, president
of Denison Mines, Toronto, and
chairman of the institute, firmly
denied yesterday that the new
organization would be "an
Opec of the uranium world".
The institute's memorandum
of association, he pointed out,
precluded "any agreement,
understanding, combination or
any other form of concerted
action to limit production, fix
prices, provide, receive or sup-
ply information regarding con-
tracts, or interfere with com-
mercial transactions, suppress
competition or in any other
manner restrain trade or com-
merce or to monopolize or con-
spire to monopolize trade or
commerce".
The decision to form the insti-
tute, Mr Kosciuk said, arose
from the need for more reliable
information on the long-term
supply and demand position.
He added: "Without any
doubt we are about to enter
upon a period of very great
expansion, which is likely to
continue for as far ahead as
we can see."
"This remains true even if
we assume that fast reactor
development will proceed with
a public promise to look
afresh at the Industry Bill after
its committee stage.
CBI blueprint, page 21

Sterling down to worst closing level despite making a partial recovery from early slump

By Melvyn Westlake
With apparently only limited
support from the Bank of Eng-
land, the pound managed a
partial recovery on the inter-
national currency markets yester-
day after plunging new
depths in the first hour of
trading.
Despite this "natural" rally,
it still closed at its weakest
level against the world's other
leading currencies. Its floating
devaluation against them since
December 1971 stood at 26.2
per cent at the close of trading
last night.
This was 0.3 per cent worse
than on the previous evening,
but also 0.3 per cent better
than the early morning level.
The pound lost a further 4
cents against the dollar at
\$2.2785, and touched new
"lows" on leading continental
financial centres.
The Bank of England pro-
vided some support to steer

the pound's exchange rate in
the desired direction, but for
much of the time it was only
able to let the natural correct-
ive processes of the market
assert themselves.
Dealers reported that there
was more of a "two-way mar-
ket" than on the previous two
days, with profit-taking and
the purchasing of sterling by
speculators who had sold cur-
rency that they had not owned.
The monetary authorities
will be watching the markets
this morning to see whether
last night's partial recovery
signalled the end of the
sudden turbulence during
recent days.
Unlike its decline last
month, sterling's latest drop
would not seem to be justified
as a necessary adjustment for
the much higher rate of infla-
tion in Britain than in most
other industrialized countries.
The pound's floating devalua-
tion increased by more than 2
per cent last month and has

already fallen 1 per cent this
month.
This compares with the fore-
cast in the latest *Economic
Review* of the National Insti-
tute for Economic and Social
Research that the depreciation
rate would reach 26 per cent
by the end of this year and de-
cline generally by about 2
points every quarter.
Despite Britain's export
prices being probably now very
competitive on world markets,
sentiment in the foreign
exchanges remains unfavour-
able, with fear of accelerating
inflation and industrial and
political unrest.
Divisions in the Labour
Party, together with the con-
firmation that the rail strike is
definitely to go ahead this
month, and today's publication
of last month's retail price
index movement, which is
expected to be the highest
ever, have served to focus
these fears.
The dollar also steadied yes-



terday after having been
dragged down on Wednesday
by the falling pound. The
danger that the United States
currency could continue to be
hurt in this way is causing a
good deal of concern.

£23m rights issue launched by BOC

By Our Financial Staff
BOC International, formerly
British Oxygen, is the latest
company to announce a rights
issue. The funding operation
which the market had guessed
correctly on Wednesday, will
raise around £22.8m by issuing
nearly 31 million shares at 46p
each on the basis of one for
four new shares. These new
shares will not rank for the
interim dividend of 1.4p gross
announced with the interim
figures.
Underwriting of the issue was
completed by mid-afternoon
and was considered a success,
considering the price was
pitched tightly against Wednes-
day evening's closing price of
57p on a day when the market
at one stage had fallen by nine
points before its late recovery.
The underwriters were Lazards
and brokers W. Greenwell &
Co.
The industrial gases-to-com-
puter services group is fore-
casting an increase in pre-tax
profits for the current year
from £24.6m to at least £32m.
Included is a contribution from
Airco, the 35 per cent owned
American associate.
Mr Leslie Smith, the BOC
chairman, said that with the
return of confidence to the
stock market it was now pos-
sible to direct attention to
longer-term financial needs for
expansion.
Financial Editor, page 21

35 institutions subscribe £12m to N Sea loan

A group of 35 leading English
and Scottish investment insti-
tutions is subscribing a total
of £12m for unsecured loan stock
in two exploration and drilling
companies, whose North Sea
interests may shortly form part
of a new quoted investment
vehicle.
Negotiations are under way
to merge the North Sea interests
of the two companies, London
& Scottish Marine Oil Company
and Scottish Canadian Oil &
Transportation Company, with
those of the National Carboniz-
ing Company and Cawoods, two
solid fuel companies.
The combined grouping would
have a 10 per cent stake in
the proven Ninian Field.
Ninian Group Financing,
page 24

Thorn outbids SKF by £1m

Thorn Electrical Industries
duly produced its counter bid
for Sheffield Twist Drill yester-
day. At just over £11.4m and
also in cash it tops the offer by
SKF, the Swedish bearing
specialist, by £1m.
Now SKF and its advisers,
Hill Samuel, have to decide
whether to compete. As a hold-
ing measure they are likely to
say today that the SKF bid of
£7.7p a share, which was due
to close yesterday, has been
extended.
Financial Editor, page 21

Caledonian workers fear airlines merger

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Shop stewards representing
nearly 5,000 workers in British
Caledonian, the second-free
independent airline, have told
Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of
State for Trade, that they have
no objections to nationalization
of their airline.
But they are alarmed by the
implications of incorporation
into the state-owned British
Airways—understood to be one
of the courses recommended to
the Government by a com-
mittee of civil servants which
has recently completed a review
of British civil aviation policy.
Mr Adam Thomson, chairman
of BCAL, said earlier this week
that total nationalization would
be irreparably harm his airline and
British private enterprise civil
aviation as a force in world air
transport.
In their letter to Mr Shore,
the shop stewards said yester-
day British Airways had re-
cently stated that it was over-
staffed by an amount greater
than the total number of BCAL
workers.
"We are not overstaffed in
BCAL, indeed we have had re-
cently to live with a major
redundancy of our own, and it
would be entirely unjust for the

present surplus of staff in
British Airways to be justified
by further redundancies of
BCAL employees.
"If it can be shown that this
is not the case, and that British
Airways are prepared to safe-
guard the employment of
BCAL's staff as well as that of
their own, then our attitude
might well be different, but all
the indications are that our
worst fears would indeed be
realized."
The unions said that for
these reasons their preferred
solution was the retention of
the mixed economy, with a
state holding in BCAL, prefer-
ably through the National
Enterprise Board.
Total nationalization as a
separate company would be
acceptable, but they did not
see that separation as lasting and
would expect arguments in
favour of complete integration
into British Airways to prevail,
with attendant disruption to
the workforce.
"A government shareholding
in the company, falling short
of outright nationalization,
appears to us to offer the best
solution to the present prob-
lems, and the greatest guaran-
tee of job security," the shop
stewards' letter to the minister
said.



Mr Jocelyn Hambro, chairman
of Hambros.

'No shipping loan loss' by Hambros

Hambros yesterday an-
nounced that, despite the
collapse of the tanker market,
it had until now suffered no
loss of principal or interest on
any shipping loan.
Moreover, the company,
which has extensive connections
with the Scandinavian ship-
owners who have been among
the hardest hit by the decline
in freight rates and in tanker
sale values, remains satisfied
that the security on its lend-
ing continues adequate and
has made no specific provisions
against any particular debts.
This statement accompanied
its announcement of lower
end-year profits figures.
Financial Editor, page 21

Electricity calls discipline

Mr Menzies, chairman
Electricity Council, yester-
day called for "financial
discipline" by the Govern-
ment, industries and the public
to curb inflation.
He introduced a paper
entitled *The Public and the
Electricity Industry* at the
Institute of Public
and Accidents.
Inference at Torquay.
Various governments in
the world have attempted such
as incomes and prices
contain inflation, but
truly effective disci-
plinary or financial
measures said the public had
taught that it was just
tant for a business-
man, a local authority
worry as a whole to
its cash budget as it
weekly shopping bills.
The problem is aggravated
at that so very large
the gross national prod-
uct taken up by central
directly, by local
and by the growing
nationalized industries
ties," Mr Menzies said.
His view any govern-
ment look very hard at
tion of nationalization
s evolved a firm and
framework in which
discipline can be fully
by the managements
to bring home to
staffs the need in
d industry for the
containment of costs
is."

MPs extend watch on nationalized industries

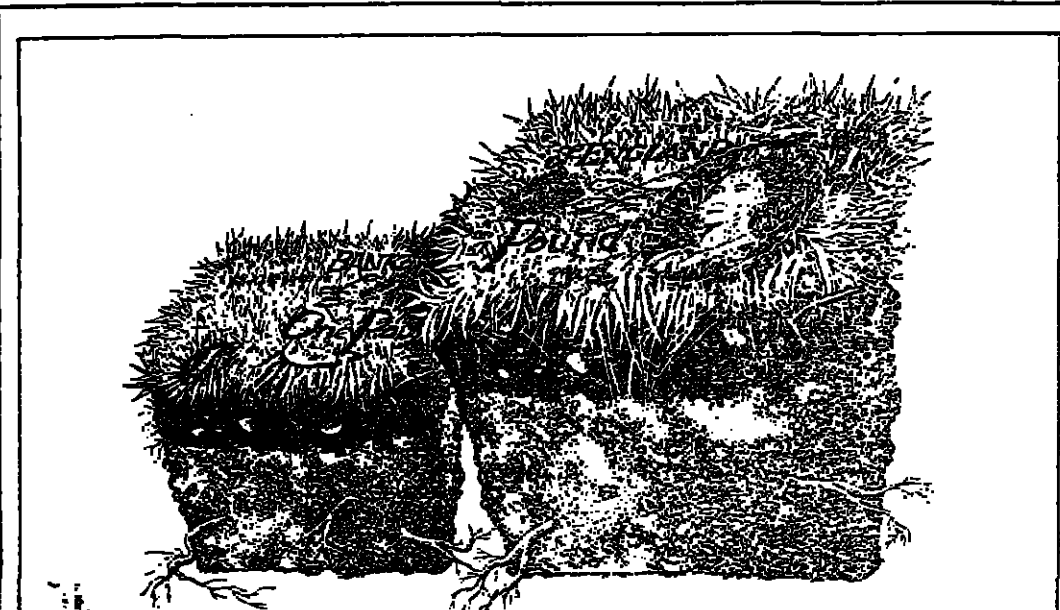
By David Young
Substantially increased powers
for the Parliamentary Select
Committee on the Nationalized
Industries were announced
yesterday by Mr Russell Kerr,
MP, the chairman.
They will include a new
system of preliminary inquiries
which will involve every
nationalized industry chairman
making at least one public
appearance before it each year.
In the 20 years of its exis-
tence the Committee has been
able to conduct an average of
only three principal inquiries a
year and full-scale inquiries
into nationalized industries
have been held only once every
12 years.
The nationalized Cable and
Wireless Group and the horse-
racing Totalisator Board have
in fact never been the subject
of a full-scale inquiry.
The Committee is now
increasing its strength from 15
to 17, which will enable it to set
up a third subcommittee to
spread the workload.
The first principal inquiry
will be into the Cable and Wire-
less Group.
Announcing the new arrange-
ments yesterday, Mr Kerr said
the new system would mean
more principal inquiries as well
as the new system of prelimi-
nary inquiries.
This new flexibility, Mr Kerr
added, would allow the Com-
mittee to undertake what he
described as "brush-fire"
inquiries such as investigations
into the reasons and effects of
sudden price changes by
nationalized industries.

EEC indicates shift in its attitude to oil

From Michael Horvath
Brussels, June 12
The European Commission
said today it was anxious to
play a part in the resumption
of the dialogue between con-
sumers and producers, and that
it now accepted the ques-
tion of oil could not be dis-
cussed in isolation from or given
precedence over other raw
materials.
The in-stance on making oil
the central issue is widely re-
garded as the main reason for
the breakdown of the prepara-
tory meeting last April in Paris.

Norway clears way to buy Reksten shares

Oslo, June 12—At a secret
meeting last night, the Nor-
wegian parliament authorized
the government to use up to
200m crowns (about £17.5m) to
buy shares from the Hilmar
Reksten Shipping Co, informed
sources said today.
Negotiations are taking place
with Hambros Bank for pur-
chase of the shares, which Rek-
sten has deposited with the
bank as security for loans, they
added.
The sources said the latest
estimate of their value was
130m crowns.



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How the markets moved

Rises	Falls	On other pages
Am Port Cement 5p to 146p	Alfred Discount 15p to 195p	Appointments vacant 23
Armstrong Shanks 4p to 55p	Allied Ltd 4p to 35p	Business appointments 23
Beecham Grp 5p to 295p	Bentley 8p to 142p	Diary 21
Brit Am Tob 5p to 322p	Dunlop Hldgs 3p to 48p	Financial Editor 21
Berry Wiggins 5p to 82p	Dunlop Ind 1p to 51p	Financial news 22, 23, 24
Distillers 5p to 137p	Hammerson 10p to 395p	Letters 23
GKN 4p to 244p	Hawker Sid 2p to 282p	Market reports 22, 24, 25
		Share prices 26
		Unit Trust prices 22
		Wall Street 23
		Bank Base Rates Table 25

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
Australia \$ 1.75	buys	sells
Austria Sch 38.75		
Belgium Fr 84.25		
Canada \$ 2.37		
Denmark Kr 12.60		
Finland Mk 8.25		
France Fr 9.25		
Germany DM 5.40		
Greece Dr 66.25		
Hongkong \$ 11.60		
Italy L 1440.00		
Japan Yn 690.00		
Netherlands Gld 5.55		
Norway Kr 11.35		
Portugal Esc 56.50		
Spain Ptas 166.64		
Sweden Kr 128.75		
Switzerland Fr 5.80		
US \$ 2.26		
Yugoslavia Dnr 38.00		

Gold rose by \$1.00 to \$155.75 an
oz.
SDR's was 1.24877 on Thursday,
while SDR-E was 0.547298.
Commodities: Reuters' index
closed yesterday at 1,062.2 (1,064.9
on Wednesday).
Reports, pages 22, 24 and 25

ement near ird World acity

June 12—Officials
say that the develop-
ment of the Inter-
national Fund and the
bank were in broad
agreement on setting up a new
facility at the World
om which needy
nations could borrow
at interest rates.
The facility, the so-
called "third window",
the bank wants to borrow
\$100m (about £43.9m)
markets annually and
e money to finance
jects in developing
ver a 20-year period.
of funds to finance
ual between market
the "third window",
te would be granted
old Bank by indus-
trials and by oil
countries.
sources said
aid "oil-producing"
pledged their finan-
ial for the "third win-
dow", and some
ed countries like
d the Netherlands
d financial support.
United States, France,
any and Japan did
tately say whether
raise the funds out
gular budgets.

Eurocurrency bankers get jobs warning

From Peter Norman
Amsterdam, June 12
M. René Larre, general man-
ager of the Bank for Inter-
national Settlements, today
gave a warning that bankers
"misbehaving" on the Euro-
currency markets stood to lose
their jobs if their institutions
then needed central bank sup-
port.
He told the international
monetary conference of the
American Bankers Association
that the price for central bank
support in such circumstances
would be management changes.
He said that central banks
could give no "blank guaran-
tee" for banks in trouble.

Minister denies state takeover of bank

There are no plans to nation-
alize any of the main London
clearing banks, Mr Edmund
Dell, the Paymaster General,
said in a Commons written
reply.
Recent press reports have
suggested the Government was
drawing up plans for national-
ization of one of the funds bank
Barclays, NatWest, National
Westminster and Lloyds-
Reuters.

Electrical strike hits 6,000 jobs

Two more factories belonging to the Ward and Goldstone electrical engineering group were brought to a standstill yesterday because of the strike by 400 engineering craftsmen. All 10 of the company's plants in the north-west are now idle and the number of workers laid off has reached nearly 6,000.

The Lancashire factories affected yesterday were at Atherton, where 750 workers were sent home, and the accessories plant at Penderle, Salford, where 100 employees were laid off.

The only factories in the group still working are at Liverpool, Eccles and Todmorden, which all produce wiring components for the motor industry. These could be forced to close before the weekend.

TV sales rise

The threat of higher VAT rates caused deliveries of colour television sets to rise during April for the first time for more than a year. Figures issued by the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association yesterday show that deliveries of colour TV sets to the United Kingdom market rose by 4 per cent to 177,000 compared with 171,000 last year.

Car rental 'conspiracy'

The United States Federal Trade Commission has accused three car rental companies, Hertz, Avis and National Car Rental System of conspiracy to monopolize airport car rentals and fix prices. They are accused of submitting common bids and specifications for airport concessions and fixing eligibility standards that exclude competitors. —Reuters.

300 lose jobs

Three hundred people are to be made redundant at the Glacier metals plant in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. Mr Thomas Emmett, director and general manager, said there had been a severe reduction in demand from the automotive industry for the bearings which the plant produces.

Car premiums up

Northern Star Insurance said yesterday it was raising motor insurance premiums about 14 per cent for its 190,000 policy holders from July 1, due to higher repair costs.

French estimates cut

Paris, June 12.—French Government estimates of export growth in 1975 were cut to 3.5 per cent from 10 per cent. Import growth is now estimated at less than 1 per cent from October's 6 per cent, informed sources said.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

Percentage Increase	Year 1975/Year 1974						2nd half 1975/1st half 1975	
	Treasury (Apr)	NIESR (June)	LBS (Apr)	H (June)	H&G (June)	P&D (June)	Treasury (Apr)	NIESR (June)
Consumption	1.8	2.2	2.3	0.6	1.1	1.0	-1.6	0.2
Private investment inc. housebuilding	-5.9	-7.4	-9.5	-8.0	-8.2	-10.1	2.7	5.7
Public investment inc. housebuilding	-1.2	5.6	-0.9	0.7	-1.5	1.3	0.0	6.1
Public authorities consumption	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.4	4.7	3.0	3.8	4.3
Exports	0.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	3.2	0.8	1.4	0.2
Imports	-2.5	-1.4	0.3	-2.4	-3.0	-2.6	4.5	5.8
Stockbuilding (Em)	-400	-540	-602	-170	-465	-200	-200	-170
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	1.4	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.4	-0.2	0.0	1.6
Inflation forecast	—	25.0	23.0	22.4	20.5	24.2	—	—
Balance of payments — current account deficit (Em) Year	—	2,601	2,180	2,400	1,518	2,150	—	2,724

All forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the second half 1975/1st half 1975 section are forecasts for the second half of 1975 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is in 1970 prices. The forecasts by the Treasury, the NIESR and LBS are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H, H&G and P&D assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources. The forecasts by H, H&G and P&D are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in results also reflect differences in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. The Treasury publishes its forecasts with the Financial Statement and Budget Report, which usually appears once a year. NIESR and LBS revise their forecasts every quarter. H, H&G and P&D revise their forecasts every month.

£60m machine tools for Leyland

By Clifford Webb

During the next few months British Leyland will place orders for £60m worth of machine tools to be delivered next year. Most of them will go to the group's truck and bus factories to replace outdated plant.

Since British Leyland was formed seven years ago, the consistently profitable commercial vehicle operations have been starved of investment to enable the lion's share to go to the car factories of Austin-Morris, Rover-Triumph and Jaguar.

A negotiating team led by Mr Alec Sanders, manufacturing staffs director, British Leyland cars, but representing the whole corporation has told machine tool manufacturers that it would maintain the £60m level of orders for each of the next 10

years and that overseas manufacturers will only be used when there is no British alternative.

Mr Sanders said yesterday: "I believe that we have now allayed the fears of the British machine tool industry that the huge investment envisaged by the Ryder Report would swamp their production capacity and lead to orders being lost."

Fortunately we are able to indicate that our machine tool requirements split very nicely into equal sized packages over the next 10 years. "Of course there will be unavoidable peaks for such things as new engines and gearboxes, but we shall do our best to keep them spread out."

The machine toolmen's fears had largely arisen because the Ryder Report indicated that

BL's total capital investment would begin with £102m this year, rising to a peak of £636m within five years and then tail off to about £112m in the 1980s.

Mr Sanders recently addressed a team from the Machine Tool Trades Association led by Mr George Trowbridge its president and deputy managing director of Wickmans. This came after an earlier meeting with Mr D. N. Byrne, head of the Department of Industry's machine tool division.

At both meetings BL's machine tool requirements were spelt out and the timescale indicated. An attempt was also made to split the orders into different classifications so that United Kingdom manufacturers could identify their own sectors.

UK 'missing out' in Nigeria

Members of Nigeria's first big trade mission to the United Kingdom yesterday expressed anxiety about the failure of British exporters to seize opportunities of which their overseas competitors, and particularly those from the United States, Japan and Taiwan, were taking energetic advantage.

Reporting that deals worth more than £5m had been concluded during the two weeks which the mission had spent in the United Kingdom, and that negotiations potentially worth far more had been opened, Chief (Dr) Henry Fajemirokun, its leader, believed there were "enormous opportunities for the British in Nigeria".

BP and Pakhoed seek Dutch link

The BP group in The Netherlands and the Pakhoed group of Rotterdam are investigating areas in which cooperation could be attractive for both groups.

BP aims at optimal use of its existing and future facilities, particularly at its modern refinery in Europoort. Pakhoed wants to expand its logistic services (transport, refining and distribution of oil and oil products). It is important for Pakhoed to satisfy the demand of the customers of its Paktank division for refining capacity which can be combined with the Paktank infrastructure of tankage and pipelines in the Rotterdam area.—Reuters.

More may get oil board jobs

Calls from Labour and Conservative MPs to consider increasing the proposed minimum number of members on the British National Oil Corporation, were answered by the Government yesterday.

The Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill, which establishes the corporation, provides that it should consist of no fewer than six and not more than 20 members. But after representations from both sides, Mr John Smith, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons committee discussing the Bill that the Government would reconsider the minimum number.

Growth rate revised downwards

A downward revision of the rise forecast for gross domestic product this year is contained in the latest National Institute Economic Review.

In February, when the previous forecast was published, the rise was expected to be 2.4 per cent. The rise is now expected to be 1.6 per cent.

The main cause of this change is the behaviour of stockbuilding. In February, the National Institute was forecasting positive stockbuilding of £264m. Its present forecast is for negative stockbuilding of £540m.

This alteration brings the National Institute into line with other forecasting units, and reflects a general expectation that companies will try to improve their financial position this year by large cuts in stocks.

The National Institute's downward revision of the growth rate has been made despite an increase in public authorities' consumption.

Trade slump having 'serious' effect on ports

By Michael Bailly

Britain's ports are going through a "dramatic and serious" situation because of the fall in the country's trade, Mr Philip Chappell, chairman of the National Ports Council, said yesterday.

Traffic was about 20 per cent down because of the recession, but ports were unable to run down their capital assets or manpower in line with it.

Further increases in charges were inevitable this year, he said, the extent depending on the industry's continuing efforts to reduce costs through greater efficiency.

Speaking at a London press conference to introduce the council's annual report, Mr Chappell said containerization of the million tons of South African trade during the next three years would mean that 1,000 men at five or six ports would be replaced by only 150 at Southampton alone.

All the forecasts indicated a continuing decline in the total demand for labour at a time when recent severance agreements had produced a situation where limited natural wastage could be expected.

In such a situation it would be "tragic", Mr Chappell said, if the opportunity were to be missed to get better manpower forecasting.

In a reference to the recent Commons debate where "massive investment in the ports" was urged, Mr Chappell said this would be a recipe for over-capacity in present circumstances.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economics of combining heat and power

From Mr E. R. Freeman

Sir, The figures in the report in Business News of June 2 about the possible huge savings from combined heat and power systems in industry are inaccurate and very misleading.

The total inland energy consumption for the United Kingdom was only 350 million tonnes coal equivalent in 1973, so that the prospective saving of 1,000 million tce is clearly exaggerated. Of the total fuel actually used, about 100 million tce was taken by the electricity supply industry and the use of electricity in industry absorbed about 30 million tce of the total primary fuel input.

Only a minute fraction of this could be saved by the conversion of the few electrical drives suitable for hydraulic power systems. It is also questionable, if such a scheme were practicable, whether it would aid the country's self sufficiency in fuel to transfer a lot of energy supply from coal to diesel fuel.

Hydraulic power is not a new idea but has not been adopted widely and the prospect of scrapping hundreds of millions of electric motors and

control gear and replacing them by hydraulic power units, for which little or no manufacturing capacity exists, is a daunting idea to say the least.

The other huge economies you mention are illusory. Combined heat and power schemes are the standard practice for industries where there is a large demand for process heat such as the iron and steel industry, paper, oil and chemical industries and combined heat and power schemes are regularly investigated for other industries.

The opportunities are reviewed as the costs and availability of fuel change and the costs of capital plant increase. There must be very few practical opportunities for heat and power schemes in industry which are now neglected.

The difficulty with the combined schemes, apart from those in the process of being investigated, is the balance of heat and electricity demands; electricity is needed when local heat is not required or the local diesel generating plant is out of service. There is, therefore, little opportunity for a saving in the generating capacity needed for the public supply, particularly during summer months when the general demand is low.

Furthermore, the savings suggested could be obtained on any proposed scheme where process heat is not required. The cost of a diesel plant and waste boilers, in addition to required for a normal scheme, will be £150-£200 kW, while the electricity factor on the generating will be very low and it may perhaps not more than a few pounds a year.

With the changes in demand and availability of fuel important that new schemes for economy should be investigated but it should be suggested that total schemes, combined heat and power schemes or was recovery schemes, they may now be called, not been thoroughly gazed by British industry in the past and will not be reviewed sensibly.

Yours faithfully, E. R. FREEMAN, McLean & Partners, Shear House, West Byfleet, Surrey, June 6.

Nypro's professional engineering experience

From Mr R. E. Selman

Sir, There follows the text of a letter from myself on reading your correspondence column of June 9:

It has been the policy of Nypro (UK) Limited, which company has accepted the findings of the Court of Inquiry about its management structure, not to enter into further controversy about issues arising from the report of the Court of Inquiry. Certainly, we have no desire to enter into the merits of the debate at present being carried out in your columns about the appropriate qualifications for professional engineers.

It is, however, important that the debate be based on facts which are accurately stated, and it would be wrong to let the statements made in Professor Sargent's letter (The Times, June 9), go uncorrected, since this letter misrepresents the amount of professional engineering experience and expertise available within the company. I would emphasize that, in correcting the facts stated in Professor Sargent's letter, I am not seeking to alter the company's acceptance of the Court of Inquiry's findings. The company accepted responsibility for the mistakes made at a very early stage of the public inquiry, and also made it clear that it would be wrong to apportion blame

between individuals, since our internal engineering procedures were inadequate and did not prevent mistakes being made.

The qualifications of those employed by the company are largely set out in the report, though some employees had some qualifications which were referred to in evidence, but which are not recorded in the report.

The report makes it clear that the broad decision to install the by-pass system, which led to the disaster, was taken at a meeting at which two chartered engineers were present. The implementation of the decision was left in the hands of engineers who both held HNC in mechanical engineering and were graduate members of engineering institutions.

Apart from the company's lack of internal procedures, which would have ensured proper design, one of the problems at the time of the disaster was that we had no works engineer in post. Both the works engineer who had left and the man appointed but not yet in post, were chartered mechanical engineers. During the absence of a works engineer we did have available for consultation a chartered engineer from an outside organization.

In view of this arrangement, we did not have an acting

works engineer at the time of the disaster. I had asked our electric services engineer to do the activities of the electrical department, but he had accepted that it was appropriate for him to work as an electrician, and regarded him as such.

The final point mentioned is that the chemical engineers on hold Dutch qualifications for the general works mar. Although the Dutch we undertook did not have any detail on mechanical engineering matters, I thought it an injustice to them as "technicians".

For myself, I hold in chemical engineering Delft University and member of the Institution of Engineers as my general works who has had more years' experience chemical industry, I am a qualified member of I.R. HTS-Heerlen.

Yours faithfully, R. E. SELMAN, Managing Director, Nypro (UK) Limited, Flixborough, South Humberside.

Laporte

Significant Progress in 1974

Salient Figures 1974

	1974	1973
	£'000	£'000
External sales (Group excluding Associates)	60,846	50,079
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	9,547	7,329
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	3,510	3,747
Ordinary dividends	1,595	1,482

From the Report of the Directors.

1974 was a good year for our Company, but most of the progress was made in the first half of the year when demand for our products was strong.

Economic conditions remain difficult and it is impossible to forecast our 1975 results, but we do expect them to be better than those achieved in 1974. However, we do have a number of strengths. The international spread of our business gives us some protection against a particularly bad recession in any specific country. We have a strong technological base and operate mainly in specialised chemical areas.

From the statement by Mr. John Harvey, the Chairman, to the Annual Meeting held on 12th June 1975.

Through prudent management our cash resources are satisfactory despite the strain imposed by inflation. We have taken steps to have substantial medium-term finance available in order that we may continue to develop our business in the most profitable manner possible.

We shall shortly be inviting Shareholders to endorse a proposal for a closer association between Laporte and Solvay. These proposals will further strengthen the excellent relationships we have had with Solvay since 1970 and will also give some improvement to our Company's cash position.

Political and economic conditions in the U.K., and some other countries in which we operate, are at the moment unfavourable for private enterprise and future employment. I cannot refrain from observing that our efforts to combat these matters are often impeded by actions and influences from people politically dedicated to frustrating them. This cannot be in the best interests of the nation and the Government must remedy these conditions, and soon.

I applaud the Referendum decision because I believe that it represents what is beneficial both for the U.K. and also for the Shareholders and Employees of the Laporte Group.

I myself intend to retire from the Chairmanship on 31st December of this year. The Board has appointed Mr. R. M. Ringwald as my successor and Mr. G. F. Sommerville as Chief Executive and Vice Chairman, both with effect from 1st January 1976. I commend these proposed appointments, given to men well experienced in our affairs and well equipped to deal with them, and I extend to them my warmest good wishes.

I said when I was appointed Chairman in 1972, that I had confidence in the future of this Company — this I now repeat with increased conviction.

Laporte Industries (Holdings) Limited, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1R 0BE.

High Performance Chemicals.....

.....from High Performance People



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Comforting results from Hambros

Hambros succeeded in convincing both its detractors and supporters yesterday. For former the company had an annual loss of £1.5m, but for the latter there were figures which, on that standing, were somewhat comforting.

It was either the banking or the life assurance industry, this time, contributing the first time with the £2m-plus provided any company: the problems in the investment dealing industry, whose realized and unrealized losses appear to have been entirely responsible for the after-tax decline in bank and investment banking, £6.24m to £2.82m. With improvement in the United Kingdom market, the end of accounting date is away, Hambros reckons this decline was very due to its overseas stakes.

Hambros shares were picking up at night as the absence of news of a takeover and expected to go further on company's repeated assurance that its loans are adequately secured. But a 6.6 per cent yield at 165p, even in the case of a potentially better offer for banking and investment, has nothing much to commend it.

1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £34.5m
Sales £13.1m
Pre-tax profits £3.1m
Dividend gross 10.9p (9.55p)

1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £22.4m
Sales £13.1m
Pre-tax profits £3.1m
Dividend gross 6.37p (6.06p)

apparently faultless performance from the George Cohen 600 up for the year to March 31, confirmed the confidence he had in the company, but also suggested it could be a good time to buy the group to withstand one of the squalls lying ahead.

Exports up from £19m to £21m and now a quarter of over seem to have played a part in a 155 per cent increase in £3.67m in profits. The order books of the firm throughout the year, profits are not a factor in bank and scrap results. Progress in buoyancy in demand for "factured products" while encountered "both" quotations and order books are up. Divisional profits, however, rose by over half to £1.1m. Unchanged on the day, p. Cohen's shares are standing at a p/e ratio of 5 and of 7.7 per cent—ratings have been taking a view of 1975/76.

1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £21.5m
Sales £10.2m
Pre-tax profits £1.02m
Dividend gross 4.64p (4.13p)

1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £21.5m
Sales £10.2m
Pre-tax profits £1.02m
Dividend gross 4.64p (4.13p)

William Barry, 62-year-old man of Ford of Britain, yesterday elected president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, has a lot to follow. His predecessor, Sir Raymond Brooke-Jones, GKN, set a tremendous pace during his year of office, with some of the most open speech made by any head of the British industry.

Politicians can now claim that the motor industry is the worst recession for a century. Manufacturers are saying that this recession got worse before it gets better and want their leader to speak over issues such as the Japanese car.

It is doubts here and there that Sir William is, the job. Ford managers traditionally kept their own in British politics, but this time he is the safest for a multinational. As director and chief of Ford from 1967, Sir William went along with the advice.

his present post as chairman of the Motor Industry Council. A colleague said last night "Bill Barry now feels quite free from any of his shakles. What is more fully recovered from a illness last year and is going to. In many ways he is Sir Raymond Brooke-Jones—much more so than any other who has never stepped a spade a spade."

Sir William may yet spade a bloody shovel. A private meeting of MMT council in London day: "I am sick and tired of politicians who are more interested in scoring political

Mr Leslie Smith, chairman of BOC International, finance for longer-term projects.

quickly and it seems fair to grasp at straws and suggest that the building trade is at last starting to revive.

"Stocks of slow-moving items have been trimmed back and Hambros have been reduced. This, though still highly geared and needing some sort of additional funding when business turns up, UBM has reduced borrowings from 95 per cent to 78 per cent of shareholders' funds during the year.

The debate, with the shares selling at just under 34 times historic earnings and yielding over 12 per cent, is whether the revival will come in time to save another earnings fall and thus place the dividend, raised 54 per cent last year, in jeopardy. On balance, it looks too early to be buying UBM.

1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £22.4m
Sales £13.1m
Pre-tax profits £3.1m
Dividend gross 6.37p (6.06p)

1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £22.4m
Sales £13.1m
Pre-tax profits £3.1m
Dividend gross 6.37p (6.06p)

Guthrie Corporation had the worst of most worlds. Its subsidiaries, which should have been turning out profits sufficient to generate a corporate tax charge, against which the group might have offset, have instead been turning out huge losses. So, although profits are ahead of the previous year, the group is still a long way from the level of high-commodity prices, earnings at the attributable level have emerged very much the worse for a 72 per cent tax charge and the expected increase in minorities following last year's two Far East flotations of subsidiary companies. In consequence the dividend, although marginally increased, is nowhere near covered. And the dividend is not likely to show any improvement in the current year.

For Guthrie has yet to get its United Kingdom carpet companies, which last year went into the red to the tune of £1.5m, reorganized. Expenses have been a reasonable good balance sheet and is not much higher, geared; moreover borrowings should come down in the current year as the highly geared company's debt is reduced. The benefit of lower commodity prices, there are encouraging signs that the company is to

points off each other, than in giving the country a lead out of the maze of our present difficulties. "Dammit," yesterday, when the pound was at an all-time low, they were doing it again. The unifying electricity is being used, worried and impatient for a lead. I do not care whether the lead comes from Labour, Liberal, Conservative or a coalition, but come it must."

Gift tray
On the day that Tony Benn gave his gift to the nation, Aims of Industry was said to have spent £300,000 of shareholders' money in shifting him, more than a year's campaign funds.

Yesterday the question of business contributions to political parties arose at the annual general meeting of Cadbury-Schwappes, which last year gave £5,000 to the Tories £1,000 to

the Liberals and £67,000 to charity. Chairman Adrian Cadbury, who also chairs the CBI's economic committee, said yesterday that the company would sound out shareholders' views on such contributions. An approach might be made either through a sample inquiry or—shades of the referendum—a direct question in the interim report.

He was loudly applauded when he said it was the shareholders' views that would settle the matter. The workforce was not mentioned. Cadbury's predecessor, Lord Watkinson, introduced consultation and consulting programmes among the workforce.

The tone of the meeting seemed to suggest that it was at least likely that the outcome of the inquiry would be to increase political contributions rather than the other way around. A precedent is not lacking.

The Rank Organisation last year scaled down its charitable contributions by £5,183 to £110,215, while pumping up its contributions to the Tories in that election year by £5,000 to £40,000. The Liberals received the same £5,000 as in the previous year. The other £183 plus £817 more (£1,000 in all), went to a new beneficiary, Sir Keith Joseph's Centre for Policy Studies.

BOC

Latest for a rights

Only the timing of the BOC International funding operation was in doubt, and yesterday's £22.8m rights was well received in an unsettled market. This owes something to the forecast of an increase of a quarter to £43m in the pre-tax total for the year, but probably more to relief that the matter has finally been resolved.

Always a highly geared company, BOC's borrowings since September have risen from £17m to £193m by May. This recourse to equity funding will reduce borrowings as a proportion of capital employed from 45 to 41 per cent.

As for the interim results, they show a virtual across-the-board improvement. North Sea activities more than made good a slight setback in industrial gases and rentals. Airco, which contributed £6.2m of the associates' profits of £7.04m, has seen little downward as yet while its forecast of £10.5m is obviously highly conservative.

At 54p BOC shares are selling at just over 7 times fully diluted earnings and yield 6.9 per cent. The rights, worth 14p at the moment, carry as a prospective annualized yield of 8 per cent and, assuming a 10p dividend, BOC has never been a high performance stock.

Interim: 1974/75 (1973/74)
Capitalization £111m
Sales £22.8m
Pre-tax profits £20.9m (£14.0m)
Dividend gross 1.4p (1.2p)

Sheffield Twist
Food for thought

Thorn's 85p per share in cash for Sheffield Twist Drill is not the overkill bid I suggested might happen yesterday, but it is still a comfortable 91 per cent premium on the 45p bid. The twist drill is a Swedish camp-thinking hard.

The latest offer for Sheffield Twist shareholders, then, is an exit at 124 times last year's earnings, given the uncertainty about the company's future, really looks quite generous.

Nevertheless, as I said yesterday, Sheffield Twist is a special case and both Thorn and SKF appear to want it badly. Today SKF will extend its offer while it considers whether it will be better than Thorn's 85p. My guess is that the Swedish group will want to see firm backing from the Sheffield board for any new bid and hope to see more encouraging support from Sheffield Twist's workforce. But the danger now is that foreign companies have a habit of throwing in the towel when they get involved in a fierce United Kingdom takeover battle—nowadays on the sensible view that it might be dangerous to pay too much for a British company however tempting it may look.

In the past week the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Trades Union Congress have been quietly considering four important documents circulated by the Confederation of British Industry. With Mr Benn despatched to new duties and a vital meeting of the National Economic Development Council due next week, the papers are already assuming new dimensions of importance.

Industrialists have bitterly criticized the Government's attitudes towards their role in the struggle for economic recovery. Yet, until now, they have not attempted to set down their detailed ideas for redefining the relationship between government and industry. This is now put right with the pre-NEDC council memorandum, which adds up to a national programme under which the CBI declares that businessmen can lead the Government, now in a more conciliatory mood towards the City and industry if the current flurry of Prime Ministerial and Treasury speeches are any guide.

Ever since Labour returned to power, the TUC and its affiliates have pressed their case. Now the CBI is moving in amid the jobs, profits and investment crisis to have its say, but attempting to define the common ground which the Chancellor and Mr Varley, the new Secretary of State for Industry, seem anxious to find.

Already the CBI has unveiled its specific ideas for a counter-inflation policy, with an annual price increase of 3 per cent or less. Yesterday, there came the further disclosures dealing with economic planning, government aid to industry, and employee participation—and they all carry the seal of the CBI Council's approval.

The key feature of the CBI approach is that the NEDC should work without delay, start work on what it calls an "Economic Performance Programme", based upon an analysis of the basic problems facing the United Kingdom and the policies required to overcome them. It is also putting forward proposals on employee relations (such as the provision of information) and guidelines on public sector/private sector relations (including the question of facilities for companies in need of special financial assistance).

Guidelines on NEB

"The main features of this new approach, the CBI believes, do not conflict with those outlined in the paper drawn up jointly with the TUC and recently presented to the NEDC for future discussion", say the documents.

The Economic Performance Programme would include guidelines on the operation of the National Enterprise Board and criteria for aid where FRI and CBI resources were not available. Its main task would be to set out policies on, for example, inflation and economic growth, balance of payments, industrial investment, mobility, availability and utilization of labour, taxation, prices and income, and so on. This programme would then be agreed by all parties to NEDC and presented to Parliament for approval.

Development of the programme would require much more continuity of NEDC proposals, based upon an annual screening committee. New standing committees would need to meet frequently to handle the increased workload. All parties would be required to give greater weight and input to these exercises, with greater positive support from government representatives.

"The Treasury in particular should make much more of its

own forecasting data available and there should be no attempt to prevent discussion of major economic parameters prior to the Budget", the CBI says. "Any problem of confidentiality in this respect would need discussion at NEDC. The Economic Performance Programme would need to be revised every two years. The macroeconomic forecasts would also have to be revised every two years and the national strategy reviewed accordingly after intensive NEDC/EDC consultation."

The Treasury or NEDC would produce macroeconomic forecasts for five years ahead, possibly based on alternative growth rate assumptions. Forecasts should be discussed and agreed by NEDC including the breakdown between consumption, investment, exports and imports (and possibly wages and profits), and then presented to Parliament.

Long-term strategies

In turn, the network of Little Neddies for individual industries would be asked to consider the implications of these forecasts, and of relevant international comparisons provided by NEDC, for their industries and to identify problems and constraints.

With information received from industry (either direct from companies after consultations at plant level or through trade associations), from trade unions and from sponsoring departments, the EDCs would then formulate long-term strategies for their particular sectors and present these plans for correlation and submission to the NEDC. The role of trade associations in this process will be particularly important. In industries which have no Little Neddies, new ones, or special tripartite working parties could be established where appropriate, either covering particular sectors, or "problem" oriented.

Businessmen, trade unionists and government would agree on an indicative national strategy, set out in broad terms. This would obviously include any government investment in development or other measures affecting industry generally, highlighting special problems and special problems.

Individual Little Neddies could then bid for any form of special treatment that they judged necessary for their sector. The application would have to satisfy criteria set out in the indicative national strategy. All parties would then be responsible for monitoring progress of the macroeconomic strategy produced by government and would report back to the NEDC Council accordingly.

Individual companies would be free to decide whether or not to operate under their Little NEDC scheme (which might involve the National Enterprise Board, if the company wished, acting in a consultative capacity with the government guidelines, if there was a need for rationalization or reconstruction within that sector).

General principles underlying the CBI's approach to selective aid to industry are that it does not support selective aid to individual companies which depends on the following arguments: preservation of competition (the proper function of legislation on monopolies and restrictive practices); balance of payments (since it results in distortions of free trade); projects with long lead times (government is not better than the market), and economically vital industries (this description is so wide as to be virtually meaningless).

However, the CBI does support selective assistance to industry for strategic considerations since defence of the

realm is an over-riding consideration. State aid is supported for research and development, and regional policy reasons. It also says selective assistance may be justified in order to avoid social hardship, but this must be linked to a clear strategy. Help under policies towards industries facing unfair foreign competition is also supported.

Discussing short-term support for major enterprises, the CBI recognizes that all governments have as a major policy objective, the maintenance of a high level of employment. But this aim does not justify particular jobs in uncompetitive activities. For public money into individual companies solely because they are major employers was a certain recipe for waste and stagnation, and for unfair competition against other firms.

However, if a major firm faces serious financial difficulties and possibly bankruptcy, as a result of factors outside that firm's control, then it is right that the Government should discuss the situation with the management and representatives of employees.

In times of high inflation the cash position of firms may deteriorate very rapidly. In particular circumstances the Government may have no option but to guarantee a firm's credit while discussions are underway, with a view to obtaining agreement on a strategy for the company as an alternative to liquidation. Where such a strategy cannot be agreed then the company concerned must go into liquidation.

Equity participation should be considered only in the last resort. Ownership was not a necessary prerequisite for accountability as government could ensure this in other ways. Any such participation should be accompanied by an obligation on the Government to divest itself of such a holding as soon as possible.

Selective state aid

Selective state assistance should not be permanent, but given for a limited period in accordance with a clear strategy, timetabled and with the relevant lending terms. Government commitment should be specific to avoid an open-ended one.

The CBI recommends that, in appropriate cases, conditions should be attached to selective financial assistance, aimed to secure greater cooperation between management and employees. It sets out a New Deal with a series of pledges which could be negotiated and agreed between Government and the board of a company, placing obligations on management and employees before taxpayers' money is made available.

Deals would be limited to three years. At the end of this time (or earlier where a rapid recovery allows) the Government would implement its obligation to divest itself of any equity holdings as soon as possible. Any additional funds necessary to support the company will be raised on the basis of a prospectus.

Every company is recommended to take steps to develop a company information policy approved by boards and continuously monitored at that level. Senior management should decide what information should be made available to employees.

Listed companies must take Stock Exchange regulations into account. A policy should cover organization of the company, finance, competitive situation and productivity, plans and prospects. Very comprehensive information on manpower affairs is also urged.

Maurice Corina

In gear to save energy in road transport

The motor car may be a convenient and comfortable means of moving from A to B, but as a user of energy it is remarkably inefficient. As its source of energy tends to be petrol, and as petrol is a valuable resource, it makes sense to attempt to reduce these inefficiencies—but first they must be measured, analysed and understood.

To put the problem in perspective, petroleum provides about 46 per cent of Britain's energy supply. Of this, about 20 per cent goes into road transport. The road-transport total in turn can be subdivided: about 60 per cent is for cars, 20 per cent heavy goods vehicles, 13 per cent light goods vehicles and 7 per cent other vehicles.

As part of an assessment of likely transport developments over the next 30 years, or so, the Department of the Environment's Transport and Road Research Laboratory at Crowthorne, Berkshire, is looking at the use of energy by vehicles in the widest sense.

The current programme, as visitors to this week's open days at the laboratory are seeing, involves specially instrumented vehicles and sophisticated computer simulations.

An overall petrol-consumption figure for a particular engine or vehicle, as may be quoted by the car manufacturers, is of little value in identifying priorities for future research and development. A more detailed analysis, including the effects of real-driving conditions on the road, is required.

On present estimates, it is believed that a typical car uses only about 18 per cent of the energy in its fuel in overcoming the various resistive forces associated with motion. These forces are rolling resistance (6 per cent), aerodynamic drag (4 per cent), and braking (3 per cent).

The remaining 82 per cent goes in losses caused by inefficiencies in the machine. Forty per cent goes into the coolant, 20 per cent out of the exhaust, 12 per cent in radiation from the engine, 8 per cent in the auxiliaries and 2 per cent in the transmission.

A specially instrumented Ford Escort is helping the TRRL researchers to fill in the detail of a car's energy use under realistic conditions. Records are obtained during road tests of the speed and accelerations of the vehicle and the power passing through the propeller shaft. Computer analysis is used to examine engine efficiency, vehicle efficiency, and the ways in which energy is dissipated throughout the vehicle.

These tests can help the researchers to evaluate possible energy-saving measures. Better driving techniques and more careful engine tuning may give improvements in the short term. Further gains might come from the greater use of existing technology, such as variable-speed cooling-air fans, elec-

tronic ignition systems and more widespread use of radially ply tyres.

For the longer term, there are potential benefits which might be gained from the use of smaller, lighter cars with better aerodynamic design; the use of transmission systems designed to improve the matching of engine characteristics to road-load requirements; and a change to more efficient engines.

Overall, the aim is to build up a deeper understanding of the energy flow through a motor car operating under a variety of traffic conditions. Similar road tests are being made with an instrumented lorry to study the energy efficiency of heavy goods vehicles. Once the basic measurements have been taken and the relationships between different factors established, further "road tests" can be simulated on the computer.

Clearly, technology is but one aspect of the future pattern of road transport development, and the study of the direct energy flow through a vehicle is only one part of the overall programme at Crowthorne. Out of this part could well come new engines, new fuels and the like.

"Operations" is another aspect. This includes possible changes in the way people operate their vehicles, some of these changes having significant implications for energy resources.

Energy could be saved, for example, if a substantial number of car passengers changed to more energy-efficient public transport; if car-sharing and economy driving techniques were adopted; and if traffic engineering succeeded in reducing urban congestion.

New systems in the widest sense provide a third important aspect of transport development. This embraces the development of new types of public transport systems—and, indeed, a possible wider use of telecommunications, which could replace personal transport in certain situations.

In considering the total use of energy by transport, the TRRL research is concentrating on direct use—the petroleum energy used to power the car. But the laboratory has commissioned also a study of the energy resources which go indirectly into transport, from the production of raw materials and manufacture of vehicles and spares to roadmaking and repairing and the operation of garages. This is being done by the Energy Research Group of the University of Warwick.

The broad aim is to build up a complete picture of the flow of resources through the transport sector. When this is known, it will be possible to judge future priorities between the various options available in technology, operations and new systems.

Kenneth Owen

Crane Fruehauf

"... record results for 1974 in terms of both turnover and profits."

The Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2, on Thursday, 12th June, 1975. The following salient points are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr L. H. Allwood.

The Group operating profit for the year 1974, before making a special provision of £250,000, was £2,202,000, a 27 per cent increase over the previous year. After making this special provision the profit before tax was £1,952,000. The Group turnover of £35,276,000 represents an increase of 22 per cent compared with 1973.

Your Board are recommending payment of a final dividend equivalent to 5.827 per cent gross (3.7875 per cent net) making a total equivalent gross distribution for the year of 12.677 per cent, compared with 11.025 per cent in 1973.

Whatever happens, 1975 will be a hard and difficult year. The strategies pursued by your Board in recent years, first of strengthening and developing the management and, secondly, of diversifying the Group's activities, will enable us to ride out the storm better than most.

Crane Fruehauf Trailers
Crane Fruehauf Containers
Crane Fruehauf Service & Equipment
Imperial Rigid Vehicle Bodies
Crane Fruehauf Finance
Rentco Trailer Rentals

Crane Fruehauf Limited, Hayes Gate House, Unbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

Copies of the full Report are available from the Company, 12, Connaught Rooms, London WC2.

Air sell

In London on a stopover, Air Marshal Nur Khan, chairman of Pakistan International Airlines, said that his airline has hopes of becoming the first non-communist operator to fly regular services into North Korea. PIA has already been



PIA's Nur Khan: determined.

granted both landing and over-flying rights, but as neither the Americans nor the Japanese

Champagne diet

Kenneth Bergin and Peter Taggart yesterday blessed a meal of champagne, smoked salmon, fillet steak with mixed salad, followed by creamless fresh fruit salad and decaffeinated coffee.

Neither Bergin nor Taggart

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

ICL profits up 22pc, but bank borrowings increase fourfold

By David Mott
International Computers (Holdings) beat stock market expectations by around £500,000 in the six months to March 31. Pre-tax profits rose by 22 per cent to more than £7m.

Mr T. Hudson, chairman, says the 2903 Computer, announced two years ago, "continues to find a wide acceptance in the market place" and the company has now received orders for more than 1,000 systems. Two other ranges, started at the end of last year, are also selling in line with targets.

The chairman adds that higher output and inflation has resulted in an increase in deb-

tors of £7.5m and in inventories of £8.5m. The extra working capital required was financed by increased bank borrowings. Those rose from £4.7m to £18.6m for the six months. They were well within the "effective limits" available of more than £34m, and are expected to rise only slightly in the second half.

As last year the board intends to pay a special interim dividend before the end of the calendar year to maintain trustee status.

Orders, the chairman adds, were 19 per cent above the record achieved in the first half of 1974. Indeed, the company appeared to be benefiting from

inflation. He explains: "Computers have an important cost-saving potential which is even more marked at times of high wage inflation. Overseas orders accounted for 46 per cent of the total."

The pre-tax profit comes from turnover up 21 per cent at £11.1m. It is struck after depreciation of fixed assets of £8.7m (£7.7m), a provision for revaluation on the repurchase of data processing equipment of £4.57m (against £2.96m), interest on loans of £3.12m compared with £2.57m and payments to Computer Leasing of £54,000, well down on the previous £812,000.

Nat Carbonising exceeds its forecast by £500,000

By Our Financial Staff

National Carbonising, the Resco smokeless fuel group which also takes in bulk transport and has North Sea interests, returns a better-than-expected profit for the year to March 31.

It was only at the beginning of last month the group predicted that the £1.2m loss of 1973-74 would be turned into a minimum taxable profit of £1.2m. In the event, the final outcome was £1.72m, with more than £1m coming in the last six months. But £401,000 of this was a stock profit. As forecast,

after a two-year lapse the company returns to the dividend list—with a payment of 1p.

Total turnover rose by more than £15m to £39.8m with about 25 per cent accounted for by exports. The profit is struck after an interest charge down from £997,000 to £571,000 and oil exploration costs up from £162,000 to £219,000. Before the stock profit is added the figure of £1.3m more closely approximates the forecast. Earnings a share were 5.95p (6.55p) before extraordinary items.

On the market yesterday the shares closed 1p firmer at 56p; after touching 57p.

Second half aids Tunnel

A better second half which produced pre-tax profits of £3.03m, against £2.2m, helped Tunnel Holdings, the cement group, to finish the year to March 31 with profits down by only 10 per cent to £4.12m. This compares with more-than-balanced profits at half time.

Mr J. D. Birkin, the new chairman, says belated price increases helped the group over the final six months, as did the decision to switch from oil to coal power.

On a per share basis earnings were 17.9p (19.3p) before extraordinary items and 16.2p (10.8p) after. The total dividend is raised from 11.02p to 12.4p.

Greenings case for rejection

The board of N. Greening & Sons has produced some arguments to back its advice to reject the offer from Johnson & Firth Brown. The main point is that pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 have jumped 73.6 per cent to £1.6m, on turnover up from £10.6m to £14.2m.

The dividend is to be raised from 2.06p to 3.06p gross, and earnings a share have improved from 2.05p to 3.44p.

The group's properties have been revalued and show a surplus of £2.7m over book values. It is also claimed that there is no industrial logic behind the offer.

Stock markets

Shares level after erratic day

Stock markets had an unstable day yesterday, with share prices swinging about sharply in response to sterling's equally erratic performance, and to rumours of developments on the political and industrial stages. After plunging heavily during the morning, when selling increased sharply, shares recovered in the afternoon and were often higher on balance by the close.

But much of the rally reflected bear closing in the morning and new time dealing showed, if anything, a return to the selling tack. The FT index, having fallen to 326.6 at worst, ended the session at 334.7, a net rise of 0.5. Turnover remained moderate with recorded bargains at 5.705.

Citic edged prices fluctuated quite violently yesterday. After continuing the overnight downward trend throughout most of the morning, the market later lurched into a reverse direction as buyers began to appear. High coupon "shorts", which at one stage were displaying losses of up to a point, closed with net gains of 1 point. Long-dated stocks finished with net rises of an 1 to 1 point after having been down 1 point earlier. Dealers were surprised by the sudden flurry of buying.

There was a suggestion that some buyers had been influenced by rumours of an anti-inflationary package of measures to be announced by the Chancellor almost immediately.

The initial plunge in share prices reflected selling by both private investors and the major investment institutions. Jobbers showed themselves unwilling to take on large lines of stock.

The recovery, which was checked at one stage by confirmation that a national rail strike is threatened, came as rumours circulated in the City that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was about to introduce the "economic package" which is expected on all sides. In fact, Mr Healey's speech in the House of Commons seems unlikely to satisfy the City's call for strong and instant measures to protect the pound and combat inflation.

The turnaround in share prices was dramatic, however. The institutions have shown themselves unwilling to buy even at recent levels but most market men expect shares to rally strongly if the Government does produce a strong anti-inflation package.

Thus ICI, having dipped to 279p, closed at 287p, unchanged on the day. Courtaulds, down to 121p at first, also ended unchanged—at 127p. Unilever (584p) and Bechtel (25p) managed small net gains, as did Boverat (169p), Reed International (250p) and Bats (322p). Glaxo, unchanged at 430p staged a powerful recovery after a fresh burst of selling had depressed the price to 415p.

The engineering pitch, BOC International, fell to 54p

(after 53p) on confirmation of the rights issue. The half time results helped offset the damage done by the cash raising plans.

GKN rallied to close firmly at 244p, and EMI at 174p after 166p and Plessey at 71p were others to benefit from the afternoon recovery.

With results due today, shares in Pilkington Bros ended unchanged on the day at 182p, after touching 179p earlier. Tube Investments met fresh selling at first, but after touching 252p the bears had to buy stock to meet the heavy selling commitments of the past three sessions, and the shares ended that day at 256p, a net 4p off.

John Brown, down 3p at 62p after 55p was another to benefit from bear closing after a period of hefty selling. Thorn, at 156p at worst, rallied to 160p on confirmation of the bid after Sheffield Twist, which made little response at 86p, up 8p on the day.

Other features included shares in British & Commonwealth 10p off at 159p, and Barrow Haque and Wharfedale, both the last named turning lower after announcing rights issues.

Building shares were generally depressed with the market, but two firm spots were Westerns, Shell, Bechtel, Barclays Bank, Tubes, Universal Stores "A", EMI Glaxo.

Store and consumer shares took further punishment as the market became increasingly apprehensive regarding the outlook for consumer stocks if the Government takes stern measures against inflation. Marks &

Spencer lost 6p to 224p at 217p, and British Home Stores 4p off at 336p had seen 33p.

Among the scattered batch good spots were National (bonusing, finally only 1p firmer at 56p after a turnaround profits, and Huntingcliff down 78p ahead of the figures, next week.

Banking shares joined in general recovery. Bank ended unchanged at 305p; 296p while Lloyds added 7 255p. Among the mere bankers, shares in Ham

were active after the statement, which saw trading between 160p and 165p, with the market pl with the news regarding its financing. Insurance ended with small changes, e.g. Westerns, Shell, Bechtel (513p) and Shell (closed firmly after a new day. Gold shares streng in late dealings behind good business from the U. States. The Bears were ag good future for 202p.

Equity turnover on Ju 688.3m (18,283 bargains). Stocks yesterday, according Exchange Telegraph, were Marks & Spencer. No Westerns, Shell, Bechtel, Barclays Bank, Tubes, Universal Stores "A", EMI Glaxo.

Latest dividends

All dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies

Company	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Pt
(and par values)	div	date	date	total	v
Airflow Stream (25p) Fin	2.57	2.63	17/7	3.75	1
Amal Industries (25p) Fin	0.50	0.50	6/1	—	1
Bechtel Hambro (25p) Fin	1.61	1.36	19/7	3.22	2
BOC Int (25p) Int	0.91	0.91	7/10	2.41	2
Brit Tar (10p) Fin	1.19	0.53	—	1.34	0
Burnett & Ballantyne (25p) Fin	1.54	1.43	7/8	2.67	2
Charrington (25p) Fin	1.9	1.81	1/8	2.6	2
CGS (10p) Int	0.35	0.35	4/8	—	1
George Cohen (25p) Fin	1.66	0.88	8/8	3.06	2
Greaves (25p) Fin	0.96	0.88	8/8	0.96	0
E. Dagnall (25p) Int	NIL	1.75	—	—	2
Elec. Retains (10p) Fin	0.77	0.69	1/8	1.29	1
Guthrie Corp (25p) Fin	1.2	—	—	13.2	1
Hambro Int (25p) Fin	5.4	4.95	—	7.1	6
Headcrest Int (25p) Fin	NIL	0.5	—	NIL	0
Int Computers (25p) Int	NIL	0.67	—	—	0
Kinta Kellastin (25p) Fin	30	4.37	—	30	1
Koott Mkt (10p) Fin	NIL	0.33	—	NIL	1
Levers Optical (25p) Fin	1.2	1.10	—	1.2	1
Lockwood (25p) Fin	0.47	0.45	—	0.54	1
Mellott Group (25p) Fin	1.7	1.46	—	2.61	1
National Carb (10p) Fin	0.65	0.61	1/8	0.65	1
Pauls & Whites (25p) Fin	1.88	1.91	—	2.88	1
Sangers (25p) Fin	4.8	4.8	1/10	4.8	1
Streeters Godding (10p) Fin	0.5	0.98	18/7	0.5	1
Singel Bahr (10p) Int	0.19	0.50	25/7	—	1
Tubemol (10p) Fin	0.22	0.2	9/8	0.67	1
Tunnel Holdings (50p) Fin	5.66	5.02	31/7	8.12	1
UBM Group (25p) Fin	2.43	2.30	29/7	4.18	1
Vand Seeds (50c) Int	75	100	5/8	—	1
Valeo (25p) Fin	1.53	1.51	—	2.16	1
Vand (25p) Fin	1.37	1.27	—	3.26	1
Western Deep (25p) Fin	67.55	705	8/8	—	1
Whewy Watson (5p) Fin	0.28	0.28	7/8	0.53	1

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax in pence per share. Where in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis, the net dividend is shown in pence per share. * Adjusted for scrip.

Wall Street

New York, June 12.—Stocks on the New York stock exchange fell modestly today on continuing doubts about the vigour of the expected economic recovery.

The Dow Jones Industrial average declined 5.24 points to 819.31.

Volume totalled 15,970,000 shares compared with 18,230,000 yesterday.

Stocks edged higher in early trading on satisfaction that an Opec oil price increase was not imminent and House of Representatives rejection of a proposed petrol tax increase, analysts said.

Silver down 9 cents

New York, June 12.—SILVER futures collapsed by 12¢ to 50¢ on news that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission had decided to place a temporary moratorium on trading in the metal.

The price of silver fell to 50¢ from 62¢, a decline of 12¢. The price of gold was 100.00, unchanged.

The price of silver was 50¢, down 12¢ from 62¢. The price of gold was 100.00, unchanged.

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Guthrie Corporation

The Chairman, Sir Eric Griffith-Jones KBE CMG, reports on the results for 1974

The tenth anniversary of the incorporation of The Guthrie Corporation Limited fell on 12 March 1975. It was formed to effect a merger of thirteen companies owning plantations in Malaysia and in its initial year sales were £12.1m. It has expanded since its formation both geographically and in the spread of its activities, and the decade since its formation has been one of substantial growth. This growth has taken place in conditions of rapid change in the economic and social structure of many countries in the world. Such change has an important bearing on our periodic reviews of corporate strategy and the resultant redirection or, as is sometimes the outcome, reversal of policies. In this statement I propose to concentrate on the major issues facing the Group today.

Results for 1974

The profit before tax, which includes results for 5 months from 1 August 1974, of Guthrie & Co. (U.K.) Ltd., is higher than in 1973, but, after tax, the profit attributable to the Guthrie shareholders is diminished by an effective tax rate increased from 45% in 1973 to 73% in 1974, and by a larger minority share of profits.

Taxation

The massive taxation charge results from three main factors:

1. UK Corporation Tax and its equivalent in other countries.
2. Unrelieved UK Advance Corporation Tax (ACT), reduced for this year through the instrumentality of scrip dividends. ACT is still, however, a very heavy additional tax charge which falls effectively on our overseas profits since the Corporation does not derive a sufficient proportion of its income from this country.
3. Losses in certain subsidiaries which were not available for relief against other profits.

Minorities

1974 was a year which saw an increase in minority interests from £127,000 in 1973 to £753,000 after tax as a result mainly of the flotation in mid-year of Guthrie Ropel in Malaysia and Guthrie Berhad in Singapore.

Dividends

An interim dividend of 6p per share was declared in December 1974 when shareholders were given the right to elect to receive new shares instead of cash. Following an indication that the Government was proposing to include, as it has in the event included, in the 1975 Finance Bill provisions to render such options unattractive, it was decided to anticipate a substantial part of the final dividend by declaring, exceptionally, a second interim dividend of 6p per share with the same right to elect to receive new shares.

The result of the elections in respect of both interim dividends was a cash saving of £1,155,000 and an additional saving of £569,000 because scrip dividends do not attract ACT.

A third and final dividend of 1.2p per share is recommended by the Board, making a total for the year of 13.2p (1973: 13.1043p).

Capitalisation Issue

In order to bring the issue share capital more into line with the assets of the Corporation, it is proposed to make a capitalisation issue to ordinary shareholders of one new ordinary share for every five ordinary shares of £1 held on 27 June 1975.

South East Asia Activities

The plantation interests in Malaysia continue to be by far the most important single Group asset. In 1974 the return from these interests was very satisfactory, as a result particularly of the high prices ruling during the year for our increasing palm oil output, and in spite of the imposition of steeply progressive export duties and the escalating costs of wages and fertilisers. The proportion of the Group's profits derived from South East Asia was further increased by the inclusion from the beginning of August of its share of the profits of Guthrie Berhad, a major constituent of Guthrie & Co. (U.K.) Ltd.

Participation by local investors in our activities in Malaysia, which has already begun, is likely to increase substantially over the next decade in line with the Malaysian Government's New Economic Policy. Local involvement in the conduct of our affairs in Malaysia will also continue to grow during the same period.

Preliminary Results for Year to 31 December 1974

	1974	1973
Group Turnover	£800	£800
Operating Profit	144,553	84,575
South East Asia	11,000	5,205
Europe	(1,027)	3,223
Pacific	115	397
North America	1,198	626
International Trading	542	499
Profit before Taxation	11,828	9,950
Taxation	9,329	8,782
Earnings Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	6,799	3,956
Assets Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	91,222	80,595
Earnings per Ordinary Share	9.5p	28.4p
before extraordinary items	15.7p	32.7p
after extraordinary items		

UK Problems

The economic and related problems of the UK have been well ventilated elsewhere and require no comment. The deterioration of the UK economy greatly increased the difficulties confronting our textile interests in this country, and although we made some progress up to 1973 in improving our carpet manufacturing operations, the severe downsizing of 1974 revealed further weaknesses and losses were incurred. Escalating raw material prices and labour costs are virtually pricing woven carpets out of the popular market, and this factor, coupled with improvements in the technology of tufting, seems likely to ensure the dominance of tufting in carpet manufacture in this country in the future, as has already occurred in the United States.

The basic philosophy of our carpet business—which was heavily dependent on woven carpet manufacture—has therefore been revised. Major management changes have taken place and woven carpet and allied spinning capacity has been substantially reduced. This woven capacity is now geared to a smaller potential market and to the policy of supplying the better end of the trade and we have adequate tufted capacity in reserve to cope with any upturn in consumer demand for more popularly priced carpets. It will, however, be the end of 1975 before the final effects of the rationalisation, which has been carried out, have worked through.

Pacific Interests

Among the important interests of the Group in the Pacific Region is the joint company in Australia with the Sanyo Electric Trading Co., one of the leading Japanese manufacturers of electrical equipment.

Sanyo-Guthrie Australia Pty Ltd was formed to manufacture and distribute certain Sanyo products, in particular colour television sets. This development has proved extremely profitable. It is growing rapidly and results for the first few months of 1975 suggest that it will make a substantially enhanced contribution to Group profits in the current year. Constructive co-operation between the two partners is a vital factor in the success of this enterprise.

Investment in the United States

On 21 May, 1975, the Corporation announced agreement in principle to make an offer for the total issued capital of Ajax Magnethermic Corporation of Warren, Ohio, at a cost of approximately £12m. Certain legal, financial and other details remain to be finalised and particulars will be sent to shareholders when these are completed.

Ajax is a leading manufacturer of induction heating and melting equipment, with manufacturing operations in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom and a minority stake in Japan Ajax Magnethermic of Tokyo. Sales in 1974 were \$35.5m and net profit after tax was \$3.4m.

This acquisition will consolidate and broaden the engineering base of the Corporation's interests in North America. On its completion this Region will be second only to South East Asia in its importance to Group operating profit. For the Corporation, North America is likely to be one of the key areas of expansion in the next decade.

The Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 30 June. The Annual General Meeting will be held in London on 23 July 1975.

Association with Local Capital

It is the Corporation's policy to associate local capital with its operations wherever possible. In three countries it now has subsidiaries which are listed on their local stock exchanges.

Guthrie Ropel Berhad

Guthrie Ropel, which owns approximately one-fifth of the Group's plantation acreage, was successfully floated on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange in July 1974, and in consequence the Corporation now owns 74% of the equity. The company comfortably exceeded its pre-tax forecast with a pre-tax profit of \$M.13.1m (£2.5m) in 1974.

Guthrie Berhad

Guthrie Berhad controls the Corporation's trading and associated manufacturing interests in South East Asia, and was successfully floated on the Singapore Stock Exchange in June 1974. In consequence the Corporation now owns 73% of the equity. The pre-tax profit for the year was \$S.18.2m (£3.4m), again well in excess of the prospectus forecast.

Joint companies have been formed in Malaysia with the National Farmers Association and certain State Development Corporations for the preparation and distribution of fertilisers in that country.

Mindustrial Corporation

Following a recent rights issue, the Group now holds 71% of Mindustrial Corporation.

Mindustrial controls the Group's Canadian engineering and allied interests and has been quoted on the Toronto Stock Exchange for many years. In 1974 its pre-tax profit of Can.\$2.3m (£1.0m) was again a record, and well in excess of 1973.

Mindustrial Corporation made its first significant United States takeover in December 1974, when it acquired Water Refining Inc. of Middletown, Ohio which, like Sovereign Water, Conditions, the Mindustrial subsidiary operating out of Ontario, is a manufacturer of water treatment equipment.

Future Prospects

To increase operating profits in 1975, in the dull trading conditions that exist throughout the world, will be difficult. In addition, the cost of the final stages of our UK rationalisation is likely once again to lead to a disproportionately high tax charge for 1975. The political, economic and social changes which are taking place around the world are challenging, but they also create opportunities. I have every confidence that the Corporation is financially and structurally capable of making the most of such opportunities.

Staff

In expressing appreciation of their efforts once again to Group employees, my colleagues and I on the Board of the Corporation have particularly in mind the difficult conditions of world recession in which business is operating, and the pressure which these conditions impose on all involved in serving the Corporation's interests in their various activities and widely separated geographical locations. These pressures fall especially heavily on senior managers, whose remuneration suffers the most severely from taxation, largely negating any element of incentive. The fact that the Corporation's operations continue to expand, notwithstanding some setbacks and dispiriting world conditions of trade, testifies to the high quality of employees who serve the Guthrie interest around the world.

RANDOM SELECTION
CORPORATION LIMITED

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

OFFICE OF HOLDERS OF
RECEIPTS TO BEARER
OF COUPON NO. 119In reference to the notice of
dividend advertised in
press on 6th June, 1975, the
dividend information is published
in the form of a coupon to be
sent to the holders of shares
in the company.The dividend of 37 cents per
share is payable on 11th July
1975. The dividend is payable
in cash to the holders of shares
in the company.The dividend is payable to the
holders of shares in the company
in the form of a coupon to be
sent to the holders of shares
in the company.At the office of the following
controlling paying agent,
Messrs. J. H. J. P. van der
Merwe, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119,
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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Commodities

Bank Base Rates

clays Bank ..	94%
Hoare & Co. ..	94%
yds Bank	94%
lland Bank	94%
Westminster ..	94%
nley Trust ..	11%
1 Century Bank	11%
liams & Glyn's	94%

ay deposits on sums of
0,000 and under, 6%
to £25,000, 6%
25,000, 7%.

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4.70 Low	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div/yr	Yld. %	P/E
35	Armitage & Rhodes	46	—	3.0	6.5	5.2
90	Henry Sykes	125	—	4.9	4.0	8.3
29	Twindock Ord	38	—	0.8	2.3	6.6
45	Twindock 12% U.S.	61	—	12.0	19.7	—

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EX-LANDS
Revenue for 1974, £143,588,200) and dividend is 1.5 (1.37p) payable when funds received from Nigeria.

Tanzania puts a ban on imports of raw materials

Dar es Salaam, June 12.—Tanzania will stop firms importing raw materials which can be obtained locally, even if it means a temporary disruption of production.

The move was being made

boost domestic production and use of raw materials. The ban which must approve all imports was giving each manufacturer schedule under which imports would be "reduced to zero".

zania's foreign exchange outlay goes on the purchase of raw materials and machinery, M. Nyirabin said. Foreign exchange authorization would be given to firms on condition that they exported a certain portion of their

products, whether required at home or not. . . . Tanzania's foreign reserve position was poor and would take long time to recover.—Reuter.

Wool president

Waldthansen, of West Germany, was elected president of the International Wool Textile Organization at its annual conference in Monaco today.

He succeeds Mr. Georges Petit, of Belgium, who has held the office for six years.—Reuter.

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

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Stock Exchange Prices

A late recovery

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 2. Dealings End, Today. 5 Contango Day, June 16. Settlement Day, June 24.
 5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1974/75 High Low Company Price Change pence % P/E			1974/75 High Low Company Price Change pence % P/E			1974/75 High Low Company Price Change pence % P/E			1974/75 High Low Company Price Change pence % P/E		
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THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 12.00 noon
 Date June 12, 1975 (original base date June 2, 1945)

Index Div. Last Price

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Appointment of

DIRECTOR OF STATES

Aycliffe New Town Development Corporation is looking for a man with drive, initiative and imagination for a newly created appointment to administer and develop industrial, commercial and housing assets of the town at Aycliffe. The industrial assets represent a £12 million investment of £4.8 million; the commercial assets £12 million; and the housing assets £16 million. THE JOB will be part administration and part development. The man appointed will be expected to plan and expand and run efficiently a newly created department embracing a range of skills to administer the assets of the town. In addition, he will be expected to promote and develop a doubling of the industrial estate; as well as a substantial increase in shopping centre involving substantial negotiations with private developers. He will also be required to develop the development of the housing in a way that the changing housing needs of the late 20th century.

THE MAN: We have no preconception as to the type of person for this job, but he should be a motivated, energetic, and imaginative. It is likely that he will have some professional experience in the city field, but he might come from a local authority, town or be someone from the private sector. He should be a spell-doing an immensely responsible and challenging job in the public sector.

DETAILS ABOUT THE JOB: Salary range £8,650-10,000 per annum with a commencing salary to be agreed. Pension car user allowance and assisted car purchase scheme. General fringe benefits and other allowances are available as follows: - Group Life Assurance Scheme. - All costs for sale and purchase of houses, including mortgage interest, up to a maximum of £150. - Cost of moving house and personal effects. - Cost of storage of furniture for a period of not more than four months (if necessary). - Lodging allowance for a period of not more than four months (if necessary). - First class travel to home each week for a period of four months (if necessary). - Housing allowance available for sale or rental. - Government Superannuation or New Towns Pension Fund facilities available. - Application forms are available from, and return to, E. C. SIMPSON, Director of Administration, not on Monday, 14th July, 1975.

E. C. SIMPSON, Director of Administration, not on Monday, 14th July, 1975.

Ill House, 1 Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4LE.

£6,000 plus appointments

Jobs: the downward spiral

The Department of Industry's latest survey of industrial investment intentions released earlier this week provides a depressing picture of the British economy for the next 18 months. Its indications that manufacturers will this year cut expenditure by 15 per cent (in real terms) compared with 1974 points to a deepening of the recession and—at the very least—a continuation of the current high unemployment levels.

And the evidence that business investment figures are falling this year at a rate not previously experienced "has harrowing implications for thousands of executives and professional men currently out of work—not to mention a few thousand others who sense their job security rapidly diminishing."

Although taken before the EEC referendum, the survey confirms all the previous signs that businessmen in most cases view the future far too darkly to embark on even the most modest of new projects or expansionary plans.

Even for the most successful companies the clamps are now firmly down with all the emphasis on cost-cutting and consolidation and with automatic depressing consequences for the executive jobs market.

But for many executive and managerial job-hunters the new statistics must be particularly unnerving, coming as they do so soon after hopeful if vague signs that the professional jobs situation was easing.

In the first quarter of this year the steeply declining trend in professional vacancies seemed to slow

markedly, providing at least some flickers of hope for the future.

Management consultants MSL for example were just optimistic enough in their latest bulletin to see some "shades of light" behind the gloom.

Based on a simple analysis of senior appointments advertised in the national press, the MSL index (base 100 in 1959) stood at 111 at the end of the first quarter representing a reduction of

two quarters before beginning a strong rally.

The company points out that the figures for the second quarter would be critical in determining whether the 1971 period is likely to be repeated. However, in the light of the DOE statistics any marked turnaround in the index before the end of this year must seem highly unlikely.

The MSL analysis for the first quarter does throw some interesting sidelights

benefiting considerably from the anxiety of managements to obtain accurate information in sufficient time to take remedial action.

At the same time personnel remained steadily in demand, which is unsurprising considering the delicacy of present-day industrial relations and the welter of forthcoming Government legislation affecting industrial employment.

According to MSL, salesmen have really borne the brunt of the recession with appointments advertised during the first quarter amounting to only 40 per cent of the corresponding figure for the same period in 1973.

Recruitment in general management also fell away sharply with the latest figure representing less than 55 per cent of that recorded in 1973. The demand for production men dropped too during the latest quarter, though MSL points out that this category still accounts for a significant proportion (23 per cent) of all the executive jobs advertised.

But perhaps the most interesting aspect of all, the group says, is the advertising demand for the research, development and design function where the latest figure is some 4 per cent higher than that of the first quarter of 1974.

An optimist could read into this figure the view that British businessmen, despite their lack of confidence in the economy, are not turning a completely blind eye to the future by mortgaging long term prospects in the battle for survival.

Richard Allen

Even for the most successful companies the clamps are now firmly down with all the emphasis on cost-cutting

almost 30 per cent compared with the peak figure of 158 recorded in September 1973 and was a full 15 points below the first quarter of 1974.

MSL points out that this clearly noticeable pause in the downward spiral is remarkably similar to one which occurred three-quarters of the way through the recession of 1970/71. Then after pausing at just over the 100 mark at the beginning of 1971 the index slumped to 80 over the next

on the way in which the current recession is having widely varying effects on different sections of the professional job market.

Computer men for instance seem to be positively wallowing in the current climate with the demand for professionals in this field continuing to surge ahead and recruitment advertising a full 61 per cent above that of the first quarter of last year.

As MSL points out, the computer men are clearly

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Candidates must be able to demonstrate outstanding ability and potential. Experience in a major book-publishing house would be an advantage, but is not essential.

Applicants should be between 28 and 35, and it is unlikely that anyone currently earning less than £5,000 p.a. will have the necessary experience or qualifications.

The post is based in London. The starting salary is £6,250 p.a., plus a company car and other fringe benefits.

Applications, which will be treated in strictest confidence, should be addressed personally to:

Michael Kaye,
Sharps Recruitment Services,
12 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7DZ
Telephone: 01-235 1272

Delegacy of Local Examinations, Oxford

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY TO THE DELEGATES

The Delegates invite applications for the post of Secretary to the Delegates. It is hoped that the successful candidate will join the Delegacy during April, 1976, and take over as Secretary on 1 October, 1976, on the retirement of the present Secretary. The salary will be on the Oxford Professorial Scale, plus departmental allowance. The person appointed will be required to belong to a University superannuation scheme. A person with teaching experience and if possible administrative experience is required, preferably in the age range 35-50. Selection will not necessarily be limited to those applying.

Further particulars, and forms of application, to be returned by Tuesday, 15 July, 1975, may be obtained from the Secretary of Local Examinations, Ewert Place, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7BZ.

Remember that every Tuesday is

£4,000 plus Appointments day

and every Friday is

£6,000 plus Appointments day

For details, or to book your advertisement, ring
The Times Appointments Team

01-278 9161

or our Manchester Office
061-834 1234

CSIRO

AUSTRALIA

DIVISION OF FOREST RESEARCH CANBERRA, A.C.T. CHIEF OF DIVISION

Following a review of Australian Government forestry research, it has been decided to establish a Division of Forest Research within the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization as from 1st July, 1975. The headquarters of the Division will be located in Canberra at the site occupied by the present Forest Research Institute. It will comprise research groups of the Forestry and Timber Bureau, which are to be transferred to the Organization from the Australian Department of Agriculture, and will also incorporate some research at present undertaken in other CSIRO Divisions. The programme of the Division is expected to include long-term studies in such fields as resource assessment and production tree genetics, physiology, forest ecology, harvesting and taxonomy.

The Division will operate a number of field stations strategically located in relation to forest resources. In addition to providing research facilities, these field stations will support the extension of research results to those responsible for management of Australian forests.

It is expected that the professional staff complement of the Division will be of the order of 80.

The Executive is seeking for appointment as Chief of the Division of Forest Research a scientist of demonstrated research ability and leadership with experience in the field of forest research.

The Chief will be expected to make recommendations to the Executive on the orientation of the Division's research and will be responsible to the Executive for the development, scientific direction and integration of the research programmes of the Division, as well as for its general administration. The Chief will be expected to collaborate with organizations in Australia concerned with the management of forest resources.

Salary for the position will not be less than \$A26,863 p.a.

The tenure of the position is subject to negotiation. The possibility of either a fixed term (of the order of seven years) or indefinite appointment could be discussed with the successful applicant. In either event, superannuation privileges would be available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the CSIRO Executive will be visiting Britain and the U.S.A. on behalf of the Appointments Committee, for discussion concerning the appointment with applicants and other interested parties during the period June to August, 1975. Those interested in discussing the appointment should ensure that the appropriate overseas office is contacted in time to enable suitable arrangements to be made. The addresses for such contact are:

The Chief Scientific Liaison Officer,
Australian Scientific Liaison Office,
84-78 Kingsway,
LONDON WC2B 6BD, ENGLAND.

The Counsellor (Scientific),
Australian Embassy,
1601 Massachusetts Avenue,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.

It may be possible to arrange discussions at points in Britain and the U.S.A. in addition to London and Washington.

Further information concerning the Division's proposed activities may be obtained by writing to the Secretary (Administration), CSIRO, P.O. Box 225, Dickson, A.C.T., 2602, Australia.

Applications stating full personal and professional information, the names of at least two professional referees, and quoting Reference Number 1050/1 should reach:

The Secretary (Administration),
Head Office, CSIRO,
P.O. Box 225,
DICKSON, A.C.T. 2602, AUSTRALIA.

by the 18th September, 1975.

ELECTRICAL POWER ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION

AREA SECRETARY

There is a vacancy for a negotiating officer at Area Secretary level. The duties are to negotiate terms and conditions of employment with Electricity Boards and Regions within the ambit of national agreements, and generally to represent and look after the interests of the Association's membership. Considerable travel, weekend and other out of hours work is involved. The ability to address meetings, conduct committees and to prepare and present claims is essential. Salary scale of £4,630-£8,680, plus £120 general availability allowance, plus £229 threshold payment. The normal starting salary is at the minimum but this can be varied by agreement. Car allowance paid.

Further details from, or written application to

The General Secretary
ELECTRICAL POWER ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION
Station House, Fox Lane North
Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9HW

Applications should be sent to the General Secretary by July 22nd.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR ARCHITECTS—OVERSEAS

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Must be capable of running drawing office with up to 20 draughtsmen.

Will be required to run drawing offices in Europe but initially 6 months' training in the Middle East on Middle East projects.

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Appointments Vacant
also on page 8

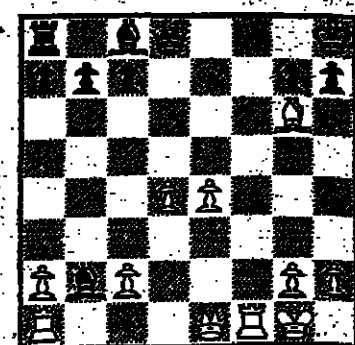
Win a £500 Holiday

THE TIMES APPOINTMENTS PAGES CHESS COMPETITION

Planning your next move in chess in your career can be critical. In this chess position chosen by Harry Golombek, The Times Chess Correspondent, international master and resident of the European zone of The World Chess Federation, White's next move is the key to his winning, against a move by Black.

HOW TO ENTER

Write down on a sheet of paper a continuation moves that force a win for White and accompany it with a proposed game or position using a similar check-mating idea. The prize will be awarded to the author of the entry that in the opinion of the judge contains the complete, correct solution together with a proposed game or position with the minimum moves that best illustrate other application of the idea played by White in winning from a diagram position. Send your complete solution and proposed game or position with the completed entry form to The Times Appointments Chess Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.



THE PRIZE

The prize will be the holiday of your choice to the maximum value of £500 from the Winter 75/76 or the Summer 76 Thomson Holidays Brochures.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

The closing date for receipt of entries is August 4th, 1975. Only those entries received by this date will be judged. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery.

JUDGING

The judge will be Harry Golombek. His decision is final in all matters connected with this competition. No correspondence will be entered into.

RULES

1. The competition is open to all UK residents except employees of Times Newspapers Limited, their advertising agents and anyone connected with the competition. The families of persons barred by this rule may not enter.
2. Entries must be accompanied by the official form and sent to The Times Appointments Pages Chess Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT, to arrive before 4th August, 1975. There is no limit to the number of entries. — Editor may submit providing each one is accompanied by an official entry form.
3. The winner will be notified by post and his name will be published in The Times after completion of the judging.
4. All entries become the property of Times Newspapers Limited, who reserve the right to publish any of them if they so wish.

Attached to this entry form your suggested moves for White and Black together with your proposed game or position with the continuation that achieves a win by the same idea as used by White in the diagram problem, and send them to:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone No. _____

The Times Appointments Pages Chess Competition,
12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT



Commuter homes



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A MOST ATTRACTIVE PROPERTY in this PRETTY VILLAGE ONLY 15 MILES FROM RADLETT. Complete modernised and redecorated throughout. 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, sun room, study, kitchen, bathroom, laundry, garage, etc. Full central heating, gas, electricity, double glazing, etc. £59,000 Freehold.

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THAMES DITTON: Post war individual detached house. 3 double bedrooms (all with wardrobes), 25ft. lounge, dining, kitchen, bathroom, W.C., cloakroom, c.h. heating, garage and medium size gardens. £21,950 Freehold.

PETERSHAM: Between Richmond & Kingston. One of the finest houses in the locality. Near Ham House and the Thames. Detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 19ft. kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, gas c.h. heating, double garage, charming landscaped garden over 1/3rd acre, 90ft. frontage. £32,500 Freehold.

KINGSTON HILL: High ground, quiet wooded setting in 1 acre with heated swimming pool. Outstanding modern detached house. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 living rooms, fully fitted kitchen, utility room, double garage and carport. Gas c.h. heating. £59,500 Freehold.

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Converted Georgian farmhouse in West Sussex. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en suite, lounge, dining, 21ft. x 23ft., overall, huge sunny balcony, 4th bedroom (or study) on ground floor. Wrought iron kitchen, ground floor shower room, W.C., complete c.h. heating and double glazing, double garage, pleasant gardens. £34,950 Freehold.

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ARDINGLY. Haywards Heath 4 miles. A fine Country Residence on the outskirts of the village. Standing in the midst of delightful grounds extending to 44 acres. Hall, Cloaks, 4 Large Reception Rooms, Large Kitchen, Domestic Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Garages, Stable Block, Outbuildings, gardens, orchards, paddock. Recommended. £60,000.

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Converted Georgian farmhouse in West Sussex. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en suite, lounge, dining, 21ft. x 23ft., overall, huge sunny balcony, 4th bedroom (or study) on ground floor. Wrought iron kitchen, ground floor shower room, W.C., complete c.h. heating and double glazing, double garage, pleasant gardens. £34,950 Freehold.

Freehold £65,000

Phone 01-546 2461.

Counting the cost of commuter homes

It is costly to commute, and getting more so. If you are going to buy a house in one place and work in another, the whole enterprise depends upon one crucial link: suburban transport systems. If they are slow or unreliable, it costs time and wear on frayed nerves: the man who recently halted an express in exasperation at his missing train to work may have committed an offence, but he was a little of a hero to many of us.

If transport is too dear in money terms, it also makes commuting futile. The origin of the word "commuter" lies in the "commutation" of a season ticket: season ticket prices are taking an ominous turn on British Rail. So the first problem for a would-be commuter is "can he afford it?" The second is to find, if he can, a growth area in commuter terms, where he can buy a house at a price which has not already been inflated by existing transport links.

British Rail on whose lines about half a million people surge in and out of London daily, takes about 20 per cent of its total passenger revenue from season ticket holders. They make about half the total number of British Rail's train journeys. But it has dawned on the railways that in an inflationary situation, selling cut-rate annual season tickets is not good business. There have been three price increases in the past 12 months and it would be foolish not to expect another rise of more than 10 per cent this autumn.

The May increase was about 15 per cent overall: but quarterly season tickets to rise by about 20 per cent, and annual seasons nearer 25 per cent. Nevertheless, they are still extraordinarily good value, at about half the full fare—the question is simply whether the fare makes an impossible hole in a householders' budget.

The quarterly season for the 36 miles to Southend from London has more than doubled with eight increases over the past five years from £33.65 to £76.40. It probably works out, for the average commuter at something like 1.6p a mile, or 59p a single trip. The only thing to be said in favour of figures like that is that costs to commute by car have soared faster and further. A similar ticket from Hitchin (32 miles) is £72.60 a term, Bishops Cleeve (30 miles) £72.10: and from Brighton (50 miles) 95.40.

To do a simple cost-benefit analysis of how much and how far commuting makes economic sense, one must weigh the price of a season ticket against lower house prices, lower rates and the by no means negligible and recently steeply increased transport costs even inside Greater London.

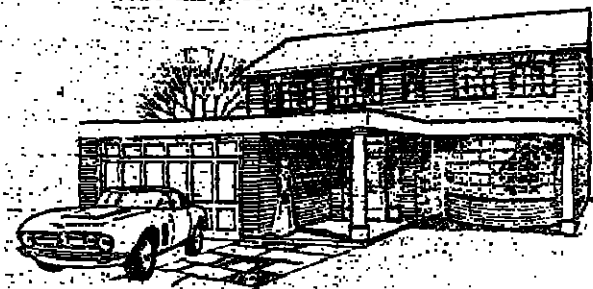
On economics alone it is plainly not worth choosing Brighton on that pair of choices, particularly when one adds on the cost of up and down the line, the travelling time and the ice on the line, floods on the line, mechanical breakdowns and

Industrial disputes which make even a 5

Commuter homes

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...The Benefits of the Town'

BY MANOAKE HOMES

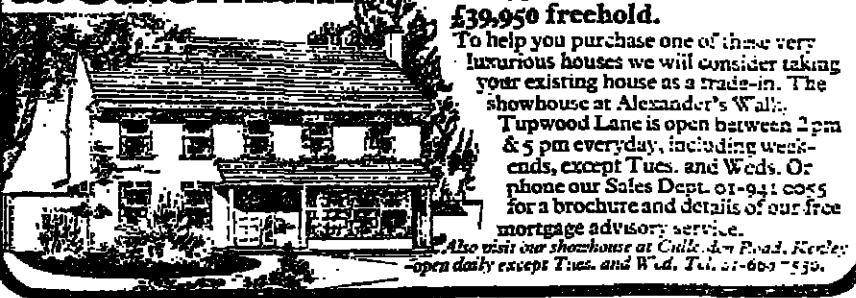
Luxury Kitchen - Cloakroom. Utility Room 3 Reception Rooms 2 Bathrooms 4 Bedrooms Gas C. Heating Garage Garden. Reduced price for early exchange of contracts.

FOCUS 21

At Tupwood Lane, overlooking the

Unbeatable value at Caterham

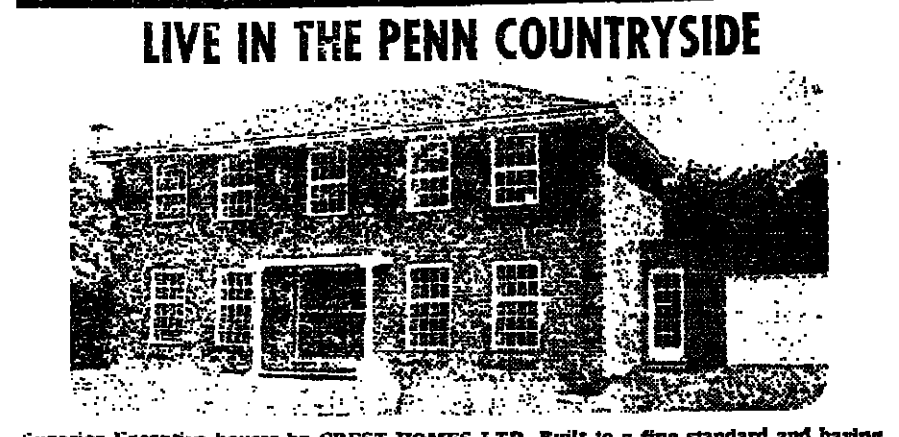
At Tupwood Lane, overlooking the Caterham valley on the edge of the green belt, Focus 21 is a building on an outstanding small group of houses. Built to a very high specification in three different styles they offer unsurpassable value. Plans are approximately one-third of an acre with 200 ft. frontage. Five bedrooms, three reception rooms and two bathrooms. Kitchen, breakfast room and utility, yet the starting price is just



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